

Engineers sign housing project

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (J.T.) — Agricultural engineers in Jordan will have their first housing project in twenty months, in accordance with an agreement signed at the Professional Associations Complex here this evening. According to agricultural engineer Khaled Al 'A'out who signed the contract with a local firm, the JD 889,000 project will be the first for agricultural engineers to be followed by others in the future. He said a total of 42 housing units, of 170 square metres each, will be built in the first project complete, with public services and utilities. The project, he said, will be constructed in the Jubeiha region not far away from the Royal Scientific Society.



Afghan forces report successes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Dec. 26 (R) — Afghan security forces have crushed several rebel groups in the country and captured arms and unspecified documents, Radio Kabul said today. The radio, monitored by Reuters, gave no dates for the clashes which it said took place in the provinces of Nangarhar, Nimroz, Fariab and Wardak. The radio also quoted a defence ministry spokesman as saying that Pakistani allegations that six Afghan helicopter gunships attacked a refugee camp inside Pakistan on Dec. 18, killing one child and destroying two houses, were baseless. A Pakistani foreign ministry statement last Sunday said the helicopters had attacked an Afghan refugee camp in north Waziristan, bordering Afghanistan. It was the second such incident reported by Pakistan in a month.

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Former Turkish premier dies

ISTANBUL, Dec. 26 (R) — Former Turkish prime minister Suat Hayri Urganlı died today. Turkish state television reported. He was 78. Mr. Urganlı served as prime minister for seven months in 1965, heading a coalition government. He also served as minister of monopolies and held several key diplomatic posts in the 1950s, including appointments as ambassador to Washington and London.

Iraq reports fierce battles in Gulf war

BEIRUT, Dec. 26 (R) — Iraq said today its forces killed over 100 Iranians in a fierce battle in the central sector of the Gulf war front. A military communique, reported by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the fighting was in Iran's Gilan-e-Garb and Sumar regions, in the western part of the country. Fighting in other sectors over the last 24 hours resulted in 12 Iranians killed, it added. It put total Iraqi losses at 13.

3 Koreans killed in Seoul explosion

SEOUL, Dec. 26 (R) — The ceiling collapsed on guests eating in a basement restaurant in Seoul after an explosion today, killing three people and injuring about 90, police said. They said they believed the explosion was caused by gas being used for cooking.

Libyan girl dies

ROME, Dec. 26 (R) — A Libyan girl erroneously identified as a niece of Col. Muammar Qaddafi died today from severe burns, a Rome hospital spokesman said. Aisha Abudd Ali, 15, who was rushed to Rome last Sunday suffering burns over 90 per cent of her body, was said to be Col. Qaddafi's niece by a spokesman at Sant'Eugenio hospital. The Libyan diplomatic mission in Rome said yesterday that she was not. The confusion appears to have begun at Rome airport, when the girl arrived on a special flight from Tripoli. Airport officials described her to Italian journalists as the Libyan leader's niece.

Council of Europe fact-finding team to visit Turkey

ANKARA, Dec. 26 (R) — A delegation from the Council of Europe will arrive in Turkey on a fact-finding mission on Jan. 7, a Turkish foreign ministry official said today. The delegation will draw up a report for the general assembly of the council which is to decide on the future of Turkey's membership in the organisation, set up in 1949 to promote greater unity among European states. Socialist delegations within the 21-nation council have been pressing for the expulsion of Turkey which has been under military rule for the last 16 months.

Volcano erupts in Central Africa

ABIDJAN, Dec. 26 (R) — An erupting volcano in the heart of Africa sent villagers fleeing from their homes today as lava headed for the eastern Zaire coffee plantation town of Rutshuru, the Zairean news agency AZAP reported. Details were sparse and there were no reports of casualties. The volcano, called Nyirangongo or Tshoninangongo, is 3,500 metres high and stands in Albert National Park near Zaire's border with Rwanda. Local lore links its eruptions with the explosion of guilty acts. Its lava flows sometimes reach Lake Kivu, 20 km to the south. AZAP said that news of the eruption came early this morning from villagers fleeing their homes.

PLO leader says Israel is planning to attack Jordan

KUWAIT, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation official was quoted here today as saying that Israel was planning military action against Jordan.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassa the head of the PLO office in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Rafiq Al Natshah, said that Israel was trying to push through its proposal for setting up a Palestinian entity on Jordanian territory as an alternative to a Palestinian homeland on the West Bank and Gaza.

"By occupying Jordan Israel would thus be following the Palestinian objective of establishing a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, by providing an alternative military solution," Mr. Al Natshah said.

He stressed that the PLO "will come to Syria's aid if it waged war against Israel" over the Golan Heights, which Israel has annexed.

Mr. Al Natshah also said that the Tehran leadership has issued "harsh remarks about the PLO, on account of contacts between the PLO and some friends such as (former Iranian president) Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr and (Mujahedeen Khalq leader) Masoud Rajavi."

"They (in Tehran) interpreted these contacts the wrong way," said Mr. Al Natshah. He did not elaborate.

Assad ends Gulf tour

ABU DHABI, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad flew home today at the end of a five-nation Gulf tour during which he discussed with Arab leaders ways of countering Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. In the course of the tour Assad held talks with the Saudi leaders, who announced their denunciation of the Israeli move.

Mr. Assad also received support from the rulers of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad, of Bahrain's Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman, of Qatar's Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad, and President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan of the United Arab Emirates.

Sources said the Syrian leaders asked the Arab leaders to talk the

United States into pressuring Israel to go back on the annexation of the Golan.

The Saudi crown prince was quoted last Wednesday as saying that the Arabs will pursue pacific means to regain the Golan and all other Arab territory occupied by Israel. If that failed, he said, the Arabs might have to take back their territory "the same way it was taken" by Israel.

The Syrian foreign minister, Abdul Halim Khaddam also announced yesterday that Syria will support the Gulf states in their quest for internal stability.

He was alluding to the conspiracy to topple the regime of Sheikh Issa of Bahrain by a group of pro-Iranian operatives.

Italian detainees refuse to answer questions on Dozier

VERONA, Italy, Dec. 26 (R) — Three people arrested in Milan in connection with the Red Brigades kidnapping of U.S. Gen. James Dozier are refusing to answer questions and have declared themselves political prisoners, police said today.

No important information about the general has emerged from the trio, who were detained five days ago, a spokesman added.

Police sources said two of the detainees, Pasqua Aurora Betti and Flavio Amico, are senior figures in the Brigades' Milanese cell. They named the third as Maria Grazia Chiari, the 24-year-old wife of a jailed Red Brigade member.

Brig. Gen. Dozier, 50, a senior officer at the headquarters of NATO's allied land forces in southern Europe, was kidnapped by the Red Brigades on Dec. 16. No word has been heard from the guerrillas for a week, in contrast with their usual practice.

Police said wealthy Furrier Giuliano Ravizza, 56, was reunited with his family in Milan today after being held for three months by kidnapers in southern Italy.

His lawyers refused to disclose the size of the ransom but unofficial sources said it was close to \$4 million. If confirmed, this would be one of the highest paid in the history of criminal abductions in Italy.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq set to sign border accord

BEIRUT, Dec. 26 (R) — Saudi Arabia's interior minister, Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz, arrived in Baghdad today to sign a border agreement with Iraq and discuss developments in the Gulf, the Iraqi News Agency INA reported.

Prince Nayef, quoted by the agency, said on arrival that he was carrying a message from King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd to President Saddam Hussein.

"We wish to be in constant touch with our Iraqi brothers on the situation in our region and to affirm the fate-shaping cooperation between the two countries," he added.

The two countries have about 640 kms of common border, which was defined in the treaty of Mohammara in May, 1922. The new agreement follows talks last year to resolve some outstanding border problems.

Prince Nayef's discussions are also expected to cover the 15-month-old Iraq-Iran war and the discovery of an Iran-backed plot to topple the government of Bahrain.

He said after signing a security agreement in Bahrain last week that Iran had become the terrorist of the Gulf. He also backed Iraq in its war with Iran.

Sattar arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH, Dec. 26 (R) — President Abdus Sattar of Bangladesh arrived in Saudi Arabia today on a four-day state visit.

Mr. Sattar is expected to have talks with King Khaled on international and Middle East issues as well as bilateral relations, including Saudi economic assistance to Bangladesh.

Saudi Arabia has given more than \$450 million in aid or grant to Bangladesh since 1975.

The president, who is accompanied by his foreign and finance ministers, will also visit the holy cities of Mecca and Medina while in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to reporters before leaving Dacca earlier today President Sattar condemned Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

He said he hoped "the representative world bodies would be active in persuading Israel to desist from its aggression" on the Golan Heights and other Arab territories.

Israel's annexation of Golan denounced at Amman meeting

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Professional Association Complex this evening to discuss the consequences of Israel's recent decision to annex the occupied Golan Heights.

Speakers at the general meeting pointed out that this move was a continuation of Israel's acts of aggression on the Arab Nation. The decision to annex the Golan Heights, they said, emphasises anew the nature of the Zionist entity and its dangers directed against Arab countries. These dangers, they stressed, are not aimed at the Arab confrontation states alone but also at the whole Arab Nation.

Repelling Zionist aggression, the speakers maintained, cannot be achieved unless the Arabs are united. Arab states should bypass their differences and rise to the level of national responsibilities which call on them all to stand firm together in the face of the Israeli aggression, the speakers said.

They called on Arab countries to extend help and assistance to the confrontation states which bear the brunt in facing the Zionist enemy.

The speakers also hailed the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories, and called on all Arab countries to extend further support for them in order to pursue their steadfastness.

Palestinian council to hold meeting Monday

By Samira Kassar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Dec. 26 — The Palestinian Central Council, which is a diminutive body of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), will meet in Damascus on Monday, Dec. 28. This will be the council's first meeting since the last session which took place in Damascus last summer.

Informed Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that the 70-member Palestine Central Council will review and evaluate the activities of the PLO Executive Committee over the past several months and will then submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Arens attacks Washington

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Israel's next ambassador to the United States said today that the Reagan administration's punishment for the annexation of the Golan Heights was "incomprehensible" and likened the move to action taken by countries in a state of belligerency.

"Punitive actions are practised by countries that are at war with each other," said Moshe Arens, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, in an interview broadcast by the state radio.

"This seems to be completely inappropriate to U.S.-Israel relationships," said Mr. Arens, who assumes his post in Washington next month.

The annexation of the Golan Heights on Dec. 14 has brought U.S.-Israeli relations to one of their lowest points in memory.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, in a newspaper interview published yesterday, said that "from Israel's standpoint, the 'strategic' agreement between Israel and the U.S. indeed exists" because there was nothing in the formal terms of the memorandum establishing the alliance which mentioned the possibility of suspending or postponing it.

Mr. Arens said it was "highly unlikely that any sort of elbowing" would bring the reversal of the Golan bill or any other measure passed by Israel's Knesset.

Asked about Mr. Begin's bitter denunciation of American policy in his meeting last Sunday with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, Mr. Arens said that someone other than Mr. Begin "probably would be talking to him in some different way," but noted that the prime minister has his own style.

"But basically," added Mr. Arens, "I think that the prime minister tried to get across a message which I think is in the hearts of almost all Israelis: that U.S.-Israeli relationships simply could not be based on punitive measures being applied by the United States whenever something that is being done here... does not please the State Department."

In an interview published today in the Egyptian magazine October, the minister said "the source of the danger is great powers meddling in the area and obtaining regional advantages."

"Egypt has no ambitions in Saudi Arabia or Libya for example, and the Arab states have no ambitions in Egypt," he added.

He said Egypt's joint exercises with American troops last month did not mean the United States was imposing its will on Cairo.

The manoeuvres, codenamed "Bright Star", were designed to

Mubarak orders release of political, religious detainees

CAIRO, Dec. 26 (R) — Egyptian authorities today ordered the release of 39 political and religious detainees, including Omar Tadmuni, senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood organisation and editor of its magazine Al Daawa.

A statement issued by Egypt's prosecutor-general named seven more members of the outlawed Brotherhood, nine Coptic Christians, four left-wingers and 18 others.

The late President Anwar Sadat ordered their arrest last September in a round-up of 1,600 political and religious critics.

They were accused of stirring up sectarian hatred between Egypt's majority Muslims and the Coptic Christian minority.

The prosecutor's statement said the decision was taken "in view of the detainees' health, age or other humanitarian reasons."

It said they could be released from this evening onwards, but it was not known how many had left prison.

Mr. Sadat's successor, Hosni Mubarak, has promised to free any detainees found to have no connection with bloody sectarian fighting in the Cairo suburb of Zawaya Al Hamra last summer.

President Mubarak has so far released 47 detainees, most of them secular politicians, lawyers and writers. Political sources said the policy had won Mr. Mubarak wide sympathy.

Hussein urges Arabs to confront challenges

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the defence of Arab identity and Arab rights as well as Jordan's determination to serve the Arab cause; and has called on the Arab Nation to face up to the challenges confronting it at present.

In an interview with the Beirut based magazine An Nahar Al Arabi Wad Dawli, the King said the recent annexation of the Golan Heights has shed more light on the growing attitudes in Israel not only towards occupied Palestine, but also towards the other Arab land.

The King added that the current Arab conditions of division help Israel achieve its ends, and this challenge should be tackled by the Arabs on the highest levels.

The King also said that the return of the same Israeli coalition to power after the attacks on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and Lebanon indicates that the majority in Israel share their aggressive attitudes towards the Arab Nation.

He added that the multitude of the problem is not reflected only in the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights but in Israel itself which threatens the Arab existence, and works to polarise the conflict in the area.

In that regard, the King warned against accepting an internationalisation of the conflict because that would threaten the Arab freedom, accomplishments and identity.

He expressed his surprise at the support given to Iran by some Arab regimes in the war against Iraq. Such support, he said, is a violation of the Arab League charter and the Arab defence treaty, and it comes at a time when Iran receives Israeli military aid and expertise.

Asked whether he thinks that Jordan faces a direct danger at present, the King said that Jordan has always been facing dangers,

and the recent claims by the Israeli defence minister concerning Jordan confirm this.

However, the King added, the real problem lies in the rights of the Palestinians on Palestinian soil. He added that Israel expanded during the partition of Palestine until it has occupied all of Palestine in addition to its occupation of other Arab lands and its military presence in South Lebanon.

Regarding recent statements by senior French officials on the



Middle East, the King expressed dissatisfaction with the current French position which he said resembles the pre-de Galle position. He added that it is strange that France would launch such moves at a time when a European initiative on the Middle East has begun to take shape.

Concerning his recent visit to the United States, the King said that visit left him with an encouraging impression that the foundation of friendship between Jordan and the United States, which existed for the past 25

years, was still there.

On the situation in Lebanon, the King said: "What is more needed in that Arab country is an appropriate atmosphere in which a Lebanese-Lebanese and Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue would take place on the principles of complete Lebanese sovereignty and independence."

Answering a question on the possibility of normalising relations with Syria, the King said that "depends on our brothers in Syria."

The King also reiterated Jordan's refusal of the accusations alleging Jordan's interference in the internal affairs of other Arab countries.

Besides this, the King added, Syria and Jordan don't seem to agree on two main other issues, namely the situation in Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian war. If war breaks out between Israel and Syria, the King said, Jordan will follow the dictates of its duty and its conscience after looking at all the facts relevant to the situation.

He also warned that Israel constitutes a threat against the entire Arab Nation which is undergoing the most difficult and dangerous period in recent times. He added that he believed the recent Fez summit was not a failure, adding that it is time for Arab leaders to approach realistically the problems facing the Arab Nation and to meet at the highest level to discuss the issues amongst them.

Among the issues that should be discussed, the King said, are: the situation in Lebanon; the Iraqi-Iranian war; and inter-Arab relations; as well as the adherence to the Arab League charter, the Arab defence treaty and the common Arab interest.

On the Saudi peace plan, the King said that such plan has remained on the Arab summit agenda and has become an Arab initiative adopted by the majority of the Arab countries.

Jewish settlers threaten to renew violence against Israeli withdrawal

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (R) — Jewish settlers in Yamit have threatened to renew their violent campaign against Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, due to be completed by next April.

A meeting of the settlers' committee in Yamit yesterday voted to use violence to press demands for increased compensation from the Israeli government, which is committed to evacuate the area

under the terms of the Camp David peace treaty with Egypt.

Earlier this month settlers in Yamit barricaded the town for four days. They are now threatening to renew the campaign next week.

The problem is expected to be raised at a meeting of the Israeli cabinet tomorrow.

Egypt calls superpower interference threat to area

CAIRO, Dec. 26 (R) — Egyptian Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala has said interference by superpowers is the greatest threat to the Middle East.

In an interview published today in the Egyptian magazine October, the minister said "the source of the danger is great powers meddling in the area and obtaining regional advantages."

"Egypt has no ambitions in Saudi Arabia or Libya for example, and the Arab states have no ambitions in Egypt," he added.

He said Egypt's joint exercises with American troops last month did not mean the United States was imposing its will on Cairo.

The manoeuvres, codenamed "Bright Star", were designed to

test the readiness of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) to move into crisis areas quickly.

"We could say we do not want joint exercises next year... if we felt we could not say no, that would be a different matter," Gen. Abu Ghazala said.

The general called for a regional security system of Red Sea states to keep the waterway clear for international shipping.

"The shipping is vital for Egypt... but security can only come through the cooperation and mutual understanding of countries on the Red Sea," he said.

The Suez Canal, at the northern connection with the Oct. 6 assassination said they wanted to question Sheikh Metwalli Sharaawi, a religious broadcaster, and Sheikh Salah Abu Ismail, an outspoken Muslim member of parliament, on the basis in Islamic law for a plea of justifiable tyrannicide.

Egypt's Grand Mufti (supreme religious judge) has already submitted to the court his written answer to "the missing duty", a pamphlet in which one of the defendants argues the case for jihad (holy war) against unjust rulers.

The Mufti said the pamphlet, by alleged conspirator Abdul Salam Farag, misinterpreted verses of the Koran and sayings of Prophet Mohamed.

The court, meeting in closed session after a two-week recess, ruled against calling the religious

end of the sea, gives Egypt an annual income of about \$1 billion in hard currency.

Egypt has offered the United States naval facilities at Ras Banas on the Red Sea. The Soviet Union has the use of bases on the Dahlak islands in Ethiopia and at Aden, capital of South Yemen.

Sadat's assassination trial resumes

CAIRO, Dec. 26 (R) — The military court trying the alleged assassins of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat today rejected a defence request to call prominent religious and political figures to give evidence, military sources said.

Lawyers for the 24 accused in

leaders and a further attempt to call former foreign ministers Ismail Fahmi and Mohammad Ismail Kamel as defence witnesses.

Both ministers resigned in protest at the conduct of Mr. Sadat's peace process with Israel.

The defence pleaded that the late president's foreign policy contributed to unrest at home, especially among young Muslim extremists.

During the five-hour session defence lawyers also failed to win a ruling that the accused should not be held in solitary confinement, the military sources said.

The prosecution has asked for the death sentence against the four alleged assassins and 20 others accused of possessing arms and of conspiracy to kill the president.

The trial continues on Monday.

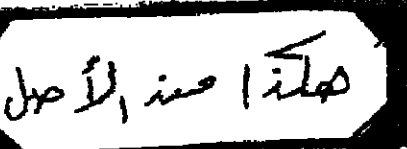
Sudan, Egypt start military talks

CAIRO, Dec. 26 (R) — Defence Minister Abdul Magid Hamid Khalil arrived here today to attend meetings of an Egyptian-Sudanese military coordination committee.

Egypt and Sudan are bound by a mutual defence pact for close military cooperation.

Gen. Khalil was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mohammad Mirghani Mubarak who will also attend the meetings.

The Egyptian side of the committee includes Defence Minister, Gen. Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali.



NATIONAL

Seminar aims to strengthen newly elected mayors' position

By Samira Kavar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Dec. 26 — "The post of village mayor is no longer a matter of tribal prestige," Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Ali Momani said this morning. In his opening remarks at a seminar for newly elected mayors, Mr. Momani said the job was "a responsibility entrusted to elected mayors to serve their village communities efficiently."

In his opening address at the week-long seminar, being held at the Public Administration Institute, Mr. Momani told the 20 village mayors and heads of municipal committees participating that the post of mayor is a test of the elected mayor's ability to shoulder the responsibility entrusted to him, and of his efficiency and capabilities. He stressed that care and good judgment must be exercised in the administration of municipal funds. These funds, he said, must be regarded as a public trust belonging to the state, which should not be plundered or wasted.

The seminar is the fifth of a series intended to supply essential information to newly elected mayors on subjects having a direct bearing on their municipal duties, Mr. Momani said. The series is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Public Administration and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Many mayors serve their terms of office without acquiring adequate knowledge of the municipalities law and other matters necessary for the administration of their municipalities, Mr. Momani said. Thus, he explained, the officials are often obliged to depend on their assistants and secretaries who are better versed in legal matters, when making im-

portant decisions that are governed by legal and administrative considerations. Such a state of affairs weakens a mayor's position by enhancing the assistants' authority at the expense of the mayor, he said.

The organization of seminars to educate mayors in legal and administrative affairs has been undertaken to forestall such a situation and strengthen the mayors' position, Mr. Momani said.

He urged the mayors not to be cowed by citizens, or to allow conventions to go unchecked by their municipalities. He referred in particular to the issuance of building licences in cases where violations occur concerning proper spacing between buildings to allow for ventilation and privacy. Builders should be made aware that such violations have an adverse effect on themselves and neighbours, as well as on the public in general, he said. He strongly urged that an end be put to building irregularities.

Mr. Momani also urged all municipalities to complete their preliminary plans and begin to asphalt roads. Referring to the collection of municipal taxes, he said that citizens are entitled to demand services and to receive them, but also have a duty to contribute towards their realization. If collected, local taxes can be a good source of revenue to municipalities and can help them to improve their services, he said.

Ten experts and academicians will lecture the participants during the seminar on administrative, procedural and legal matters relating to decision-making, leadership and chairing meetings; laws relating to municipalities, expropriation and the Development Bank for Municipalities and Village Councils; town and village planning, and other rel-

evant topics.

The coordinator of the seminar, Mr. Abdul Mubeen Zeitoun, told the Jordan Times that an average of 25 mayors and heads of municipal committees attend the seminars in the series, which began in February 1981. The current seminar is attended by 12 mayors from Irbid Governorate, two from Karak Governorate, one from each of the Zarqa, Madaba and Jerash districts and three mayors from Mafraq District. Their communities have an average population of 3,500.

Mr. Zeitoun said that several new topics had been included in the current seminar, because participants in previous seminars had inquired about them. The new material includes procedures for chairing meetings; civil service regulations, censorship and inspection, and public services. Many mayors were ignorant of the procedures for the appointment and promotion of civil servants, Mr. Zeitoun explained, and it is hoped that the seminar will help remedy this problem.

Islamic universities plan centre in Amman

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (J.T.) — The dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, has said that the Association of Islamic Universities has decided to open a branch in Amman.

Dr. Khayyat returned home recently after participating in the meetings of the executive bureau of the association in Rabat. He said that the bureau discussed the possibility of some Islamic universities joining the association, and the date and venue of its next general congress.

Unionists call meeting on permit waiver for Egyptians

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (J.T.) — The General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions has called for a meeting to be held here on Jan. 3 to discuss the effects of the government's decision to exempt Egyptian nationals from residence permit requirements in Jordan.

A federation spokesman said discussion will deal with the consequences of such a decision for industrial, agricultural and construction activities in Jordan. According to the federation's president, Mr. Shaber Al Majali, a detailed memorandum on the subject will be discussed at the meeting, to which Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani and Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour have been invited.

Firms support alarm system

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — Civil Defence Director Khaled Al Tarawneh and Amman Chamber

Meeting seeks solution to backlog of goods at Aqaba

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — The transport shortage for imported goods now accumulated at Aqaba was discussed at a meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce today. Transport Minister Ali Subeimat, who chaired the meeting, promised he would make a detailed study of the problem and find the most appropriate solution to it. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the garage owners' union, truck owners' union and clearing and forwarding companies.

Baghdad geology meeting set

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a geological conference which will open in Baghdad on Monday. During the four-day conference, 67 research scientists from Iraq and other Arab states will be discussing subjects connected with the Arab World's geology, water and mineral resources. Jordan's delegation will comprise representatives of the University of Jordan, the Jordan Geologists' Association, the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Mining Company. The delegation will submit research papers on rock formations in the north of Jordan, mineral waters near the Dead Sea and Wadi Araba and ground water and geological construction of rocks in other parts of the country.

Generator proposed for Abu Nuseir

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade's Department of Energy has proposed the establishment of an independent power station to supply the new Abu Nuseir Housing Estate with electricity instead of linking it to the national grid, the local press reported today.

A study of this issue shows that the cost of the power station, JD 1.6 million, could be recovered within the first year of operation, the report said. The study said the power station would be expected to bring in JD 2 million every year. It added that the station's waste energy, particularly steam, could be used to air-condition the buildings of the estate.

The press report said the ministry would refer this study to the cabinet. Officials of the three firms pledged effective support for and contributions towards the implementation of the project. Meanwhile, the Civil Defence Directorate announced today the closure of a number of factories in Amman for their violation of public safety regulations.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Medical conference set for Baghdad

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Association will take part in the 21st annual Arab medical conference, which is due to open in Baghdad on March 3. Participants in the two-day conference will discuss treatment of emergency cases, general health affairs and preventive medicine, as well as health matters in times of war and the rehabilitation of persons disabled because of war and civil defence operations. Arab and foreign physicians are expected to attend the conference.

Bahrain fair to highlight food

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce has received an invitation to participate in a general trade fair on foodstuffs, to be held in Bahrain between Jan 11 and 14. The chamber distributed copies of the invitation of Jordanian merchants, to notify them of the fair and find out if they would be participating in the fair.

Fines for mischievous merchants

AMMAN, Dec. 26 (Petra) — A Jordanian merchant, Kazem Youssef Al Barq, will have his store closed for two weeks, and will be imprisoned for one month, on the orders of the military court for violating Ministry of Supply regulations. Two other merchants, Abdul Latif Ramadan Nabhan and Ma'an Abdul Latif Awamleh, have been fined JD 100 and JD 150 respectively for similar offences. Twenty other merchants have been fined JD 50 each by the ministry court for violating supply regulations. The military governor yesterday endorsed the sentences.

Al Husn gets JD 73,000 loan

IRBID, Dec. 26 (Petra) — Al Husn Municipality has received a JD 73,000 loan from the Arab Cities Organisation. The city's mayor said that the loan will be used to finance the establishment of a cultural and social centre in the town.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibition

* Paintings, entitled "Desert", by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Aln Art Gallery. Closing today.

Lecture

* Entitled Update on Specific Child Psychiatry Disorders: Movement Disorders, Minimal Brain Dysfunction. By Dr. Walid Shuqun, associate professor of child psychology at the University of Missouri, M.O. At 2 p.m. in the Jordan University Hospital auditorium.

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NATIONAL

BOOK REVIEW

Visual images of Palestine

By Samira Kavar
Special to the Jordan Times

OVER THE past 30 years, the West has come to recognise, often grudgingly, the existence of the Palestinian cause, conveniently and summarily referred to as the "Palestinian issue." This recognition was first coloured by the stereotype of the passive, unfortunate refugee and later by the stereotype of the "violent" commando. Very little else was known about the deeply-rooted origins of the Palestinians' feelings of national identity and their claims to independent statehood — feelings and claims springing from the collective memory of a well-settled society and a long-standing culture, disrupted by the establishment of the Zionist state in 1948.

There have been many scholarly studies on the political aspect of the Palestinian cause, but very little has been written on the social and economic Palestinian lifestyle prior to the 1948 exodus into exile. Hence, Sarah Graham-Brown's extended photographic essay, *Palestinians and their Society, 1880-1946*, is an apt and timely tool that is indispensable to anyone wishing to gain better understanding of the Palestine question and new insight into the deep-seated feelings of national and cultural identity.

The author told the Jordan Times in a recent interview that her book does indeed have a political aim: that of combating Zionist claims that the Palestinians had not had a sophisticated, well-established and complex social fabric at any time prior to 1948 and that the population of Palestine had been a handful of easily transferable, primitive bedouins.

The need to emphasise the various aspects of Palestinian society in the late 19th and early 20th centuries arises from the politically motivated efforts by "others" to demphasise the fact that Palestinian society was a settled, predominantly peasant society, whose members practised a wide range of crafts, light industries and agriculture. The author, however, modestly prefers not to refer to her book as a comprehensive, scholarly study of Palestinian society during the period in question, but rather as an attempt to provide an "introduction to the range of a possible social and historical study of Palestine."

Besides the specific aim of shedding light on Palestinian society prior to the 1948 disbursement, the book has the more general aim of giving "an impressionistic view of the relation and interaction between a particular nation's social and political history and some of the images which were made of that history." Miss Graham-Brown is particularly interested in the way photographs can be used to study a nation's social history and the specific problems of interpretation arising from the use of still pictures as historical evidence of the workings of a society.

The 250 photographs run either singly or in collages throughout the 184-page book, sometimes interspersed with the explanatory text, and sometimes in an unbroken series which includes extended captions indicating the meticulous research and painstaking process of gathering facts and details undertaken by the author. The book, published by Quartet Book Limited in 1980, is available in both hardcover and paperback form. Through the use of photographs taken by the rulers, the ruled and those who were passing through (mostly Western tourists), the book gives a coherent and well-documented account of many characteristics Palestinian society from the final stages of Ottoman rule to the last stages of the British mandate over Palestine.

The author's preoccupation with the mode in which visual imagery, particularly photographs, is absorbed by the viewer without conscious analysis of the content runs throughout the book. Her earnest concern to explain that a photograph is a "frozen moment in time", that has been abstracted from its natural and chronological setting and context, is ever-present alongside the factual details of Palestinian society which she provides in the extended captions and the text. She feels that the way in which pictures

can distort the evidence that they are supposed to be giving cannot be overemphasised. Like any other form of evidence, whether it be a table of statistics or a written document, photographs must be "unpacked and unravelled" before they can be interpreted for use as historical evidence with an acceptable degree of certainty. Thus, a taut sense of tension permeates the entire book: tension between the author's contention that photographs present a "limited perspective reflecting the social and ideological persuasions" of the photographer, as well as those of the author of a photographic essay, and between her own use of the photographs she has selected in the book as evidence of the Palestinian lifestyle that she des-

pictures, based on research and interviews. This has the effect of showing the clear discrepancies between the predetermined image that the photographer was trying to capture, and the down-to-earth reality of the subjects and scenes appearing in the pictures.

Far from expecting the readers to full-heartedly agree with her interpretations of the pictures, Miss Graham-Brown says that disagreement may indicate a new consciousness and awareness of the importance of not accepting photos at face value and may be fruitful in provoking more detailed and deeper studies of Palestinian society, both of which support her purpose in writing the book.

society were captured and interpreted by their European rulers during the mandate period in Palestine. Hence the book is important in explaining how the seeds of present-day stereotypes of Palestinians, connoting helpless refugees and violent guerrillas, are implicit in earlier depictions.

Another stereotype that pervades the pictures of Palestinian society taken by Europeans is engendered by the imposition of the already preconceived ideas of orientalist concerning the characteristics of Middle Eastern societies and peoples.

This tendency on the part of European photographers to impose a preconceived image on their subjects distorted their reality in two ways: first by injecting into the pictures a sense of fascination with the exotic, unfamiliar and strange characteristics with which the Europeans believed the Middle East and its population were endowed, and then by pre-occupying themselves with artistic considerations, often leading to gross distortions of the subject and the environment. Subjects would be dressed as bedouins and taken against a colourfully painted backdrop in the photographer's studio, for example.

In another sense, the influence of the European discipline of orientalism had the more serious effect of attaching labels to what were seen to be the various seg-

ments of oriental population. Bedouins were both conceived of and depicted as wild, cruel, free and enjoying a high-standard moral code. Peasants were depicted as backward, ignorant and deficient in the high morals of the bedouins. The oriental townsman was depicted in much the same way as the peasant, except that he was also cunning and fawning.

As Miss Graham-Brown pointed out, the concept of orientalism's influence on depicting the Middle East and creating and perpetuating stereotypes of the orient, which even Middle Easterners began to accept as truths about themselves, is adequately explained by Edward Said's book, *Orientalism*.

Another perspective through which European photographers viewed and depicted Palestinian society was specific to Palestine itself. The equation of Palestine with the Holy Land has coloured Western attitudes towards Palestine for almost 2,000 years. Many of the pictures of Palestinian society were taken to cater to European customers who were preoccupied with the Holy Land. Instead of being taken for their own intrinsic characteristics and contemporary value, subjects were deliberately posed and manipulated to form "biblical allegories". Names and dates were tions to convey a sense of timelessness appropriate to the desired biblical effect. Often, no captions existed at all, particularly when the biblical allusion was supposed to be self-explanatory from the picture itself. A group of peasants would be posed in a way that would immediately evoke recognition of "the holy family" by a European viewer, although the subjects may not have been related at all.

The author skillfully defuses these pictures of their biblical connotations, showing how unrealistic their intention is and contrasting it to her own analyses of the material details of Palestinian peasant life appearing in the pictures.

The author also uses photographs of Palestinians taken by Palestinians themselves. These usually portray the more powerful rich landowners and middle class townspeople, who in contrast to the peasants, had the means of controlling the production of their own images and inscribing their identities on the backs of the photos or in captions. Although these pictures are seen by the author as having a limited usefulness in depicting Palestinian life, they are nevertheless indicative of a certain lifestyle enjoyed by the more privileged Palestinian class and Miss Graham-Brown uses them to shed light on how the members of that class used symbols of status, social class and even nationalism to identify themselves in photographs.

Thus, the book shows that the process of interpreting these historical pictures must include an effort to understand and counter the manipulation of the subjects and scenes by the photographers to produce the effect dictated by personal and cultural preferences and ideological persuasions. The author explains that photographers can distort not merely by manipulating the poses, dress and background of the subject photographed, but also by selecting certain details of a scene while omitting others, by using light to accentuate or demphasise the background and by attaching captions drawing attention to only one aspect in the picture, such as the fact that women are veiled, or a man is riding a donkey.

Another aspect of interpretation is the manipulation of the pictures by the author or interpreter who is putting them together. The author of a photographic study can select certain pictures and ignore others. Another factor bearing on the interpretation of pictures in a historical social study is their juxtaposition in collages and the combined effect they can be made to give as opposed to the effect of a photograph used alone. The way a text is allowed to interrupt a chain of photograph, or is itself broken up by photographs, is another factor determining the effect that an interpreter allows a series of historical photographs to give.

Certain aspects of historical narrative, such as those dealing with coercion and power relationships, are not revealed by photographs, according to Miss Graham-Brown. This aspect was of paramount importance in a narrative of Palestinian society, which was ruled by the British mandate that facilitated Zionist colonisation of Palestine, sometimes forcibly. The author has tried to surmount this handicap by collages and unbroken series of pictures clarified by extended captions, all of which depict and explain Palestinian resistance to British complicity in the establishment of a nationalist home for the Zionists in Palestine.

The book effectively explains the mode in which Zionism systematically colonised Palestine by bringing out the separatist character of the Zionist colonialist movement and its effect in slowly undermining the structure of Palestinian society.

In spite of the fact that the book deals with the general aspects of historical photographic studies and despite the author's claim that her endeavour is no more than an experiment on how a photographic study of a society's history can be done, the book remains valuable in giving a much-needed idea of Palestinian society before it was forcibly broken up by the state of Israel.



Checkpoints, searches and restrictions on movement became a regular feature of life during the 1937-1938 rebellion. Here police search an Arab bus on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road.

cries. Far from having a negative effect which detracts from the force and coherence of the book, this tension is turned into a fruitful interrelation between the "material and social evidence which can be gleaned from the pictures and that which the author herself provides through painstaking research on the one hand, and what the photographer thought he or she was capturing through his or her lens on the other hand."

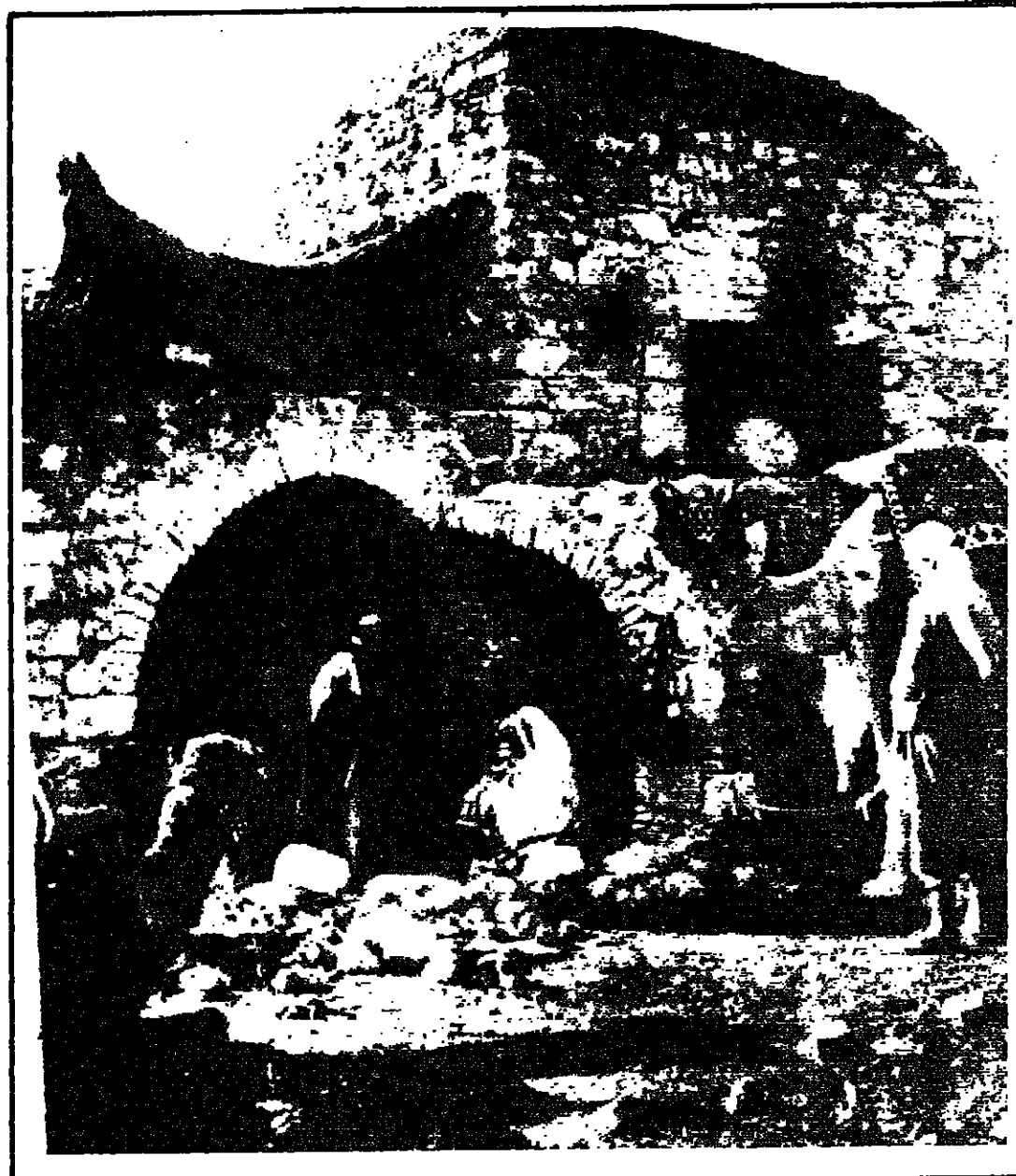
Thus, the author's extended captions utilise the original ones used by the photographers as an indication of what they thought they were capturing. The captions also indicate the author's comments, gleaned from careful material analysis of the contents of the

One of the main problems raised and analysed in the book is the way in which the use of photographs as historical evidence of a society's fabric leads to the creation and perpetuation of stereotypes. The majority of the photographs were taken by Europeans for Europeans. As colonisers, the Europeans had a tendency to view the colonised as passive, helpless subjects to whom things merely happened. Attempts to resist changes being inflicted on their societies and cultures in the name of progress towards a European lifestyle were interpreted as "violent". The author contends that these European attitudes affected the way in which images of Palestinians and their

ments of oriental population. Bedouins were both conceived of and depicted as wild, cruel, free and enjoying a high-standard moral code. Peasants were depicted as backward, ignorant and deficient in the high morals of the bedouins. The oriental townsman was depicted in much the same way as the peasant, except that he was also cunning and fawning.



View of a 'bedouin chief' — far away from the clean, desert air — posed in Bonfils' studio in front of a palm tree-painted screen.



A home in the hilly region around Jerusalem (taken in the 1920s or 1930s)

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Reagan hopes to achieve a more realistic SALT

By Jeffrey Antevit

THE Reagan administration, despite the urging of arms control advocates that it seek to renegotiate SALT II, has decided to scrap the moribund treaty and propose a radical new approach to nuclear arms control.

This conclusion emerged from interviews with Pentagon and State Department officials who told Reuters the administration was conducting a review expected to produce an entirely new proposal calling for major cuts in nuclear arms.

"Key decisions about the U.S. negotiating stance still must be made," they said.

Despite their complexity and some disputes within the administration, the officials predicted this would be done in time to fulfil the president's commitment to open a new round of strategic arms talks with Moscow early next year.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko are to hold preliminary discussions on this subject in Geneva late next month.

Arms control advocates, including members of the administration of former President Jimmy Carter, have urged the new administration to use the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) signed by Mr. Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in 1979 as a starting point.

By proposing amendments to correct what Mr. Reagan calls "fatal flaws" in SALT II, which took three U.S. administrations seven years to negotiate, they say,

a successor treaty could be written fairly quickly, assuming Moscow's agreement.

Reagan administration officials said, however, they were not considering renegotiating the 1979 pact, which was shelved after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

"No one in this administration wants to go back and renegotiate SALT II," Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle said in an interview.

"Mr. Perle, Pentagon Strategic Weapons Planner, is pushing for what he calls radical new ideas, including a way to measure U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals that would take into account the explosive power of their weapons along with their numbers.

He also wants the new treaty to be much shorter and simpler than SALT II's 67 pages of "unintelligible technical jargon." Besides these technical changes, he said, it should provide for actual and substantial reductions in both nations' nuclear arsenals, not just a ceiling at existing levels.

Conceding the similarity to the "deep cuts" plan Moscow harshly rejected in 1977, he insisted Mr. Carter might have succeeded if he had "hung tough" and pushed the Kremlin.

Moreover, the Soviet Union might be more inclined to accept such a proposal in light of the administration's obvious determination to rebuild American military strength, he said.

Mr. Perle said a unit of comparison should be adopted for all U.S. and Soviet nuclear forces, taking account of total explosive

power, known as throw-weight, but leaving each nation with wide latitude to deploy its weapons within treaty limits.

"We would stop telling the Soviets how to design their missiles, and they would stop telling us how to design ours." Starting over along these lines would be faster and far better than trying to resurrect a treaty that had been sharply criticised by Mr. Reagan, Mr. Perle himself and others, he said.

A high Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) official who was involved in negotiating SALT II agreed that the new administration's deliberations "we are back to square one."

The official, who asked not to be identified, said "we are not even close to a decision" on Mr. Perle's proposals. He said a way would have to be found to include more than just numbers of warheads, missiles or bombers in a new treaty, but this would raise major technical and political problems.

It might not be possible to find a common unit to measure throw-weight of land-based missiles, submarines and bombers, each of which has its own strengths and vulnerabilities depending on the military situation.

"Submarine-launched missiles, for example, are less accurate than land-based ones, thus less suitable for a first strike on enemy missile silos, but they are also much harder to find, making them more valuable for retaliation after an attack.

Another technical problem is that U.S. and Soviet nuclear forces

are not symmetrical. Only a quarter of U.S. nuclear warheads are land-based, compared to three-fourths of Moscow's, so there may be no way to devise a single measure for the two sides' forces.

Perhaps more important is the political problem raised by the Perle proposal, the ACDA official said.

Mr. Perle and other conservatives have long argued the Soviets have a five-to-one throw-weight advantage, more than offsetting a U.S. advantage in numbers of missiles.

The official said it was hard to imagine Moscow accepting a formula that would reduce or eliminate its advantage. As for Mr. Perle's call for a short and simple treaty, the official said "good luck." International accords have a tendency to grow longer as they are being negotiated, he said, adding:

"I don't think those of us who worked on SALT II set out to make it long and complicated. It just turned out that way."

Such arms control advocates as the private Arms Control Association (ACA) remain doubtful that a totally new treaty can be negotiated faster than the amended version of SALT II. They are also sceptical of administration claims that Moscow would accept deep cuts in nuclear weapons.

The association's executive director, William Kinkade, told reporters: "You need to stop a vehicle before you can put it in reverse gear."

— Reuters

France's Rocard boldly optimistic

David Housego and Terry Dodsworth interview France's ambitious new Planning Minister

PARIS: "I don't know if it will be possible," says Mr. Michel Rocard, France's minister of planning, "but I would be prepared to write into the five year plan (1983-88) an economic growth target for France twice that of West Germany's."

Ambitious, fertile in ideas, intentionally provocative, Mr. Rocard seemed to have suffered a major setback to his political career after he unsuccessfully challenged Mr. Francois Mitterrand as the Socialist Party's candidate for the Presidency three years ago. But as one of the popular middle of the road "Social-Democrat" ministers in the Government and with still a substantial following in the Socialist Party, Mr. Rocard has over the past six months been quietly rebuilding his influence and that of the Planning Ministry.

He reacts strongly against public statements by his ministerial colleagues implying that the planning ministry — Mr. Rocard was put there partly to keep him out of the front line of executive authority — will have a subordinate role in deciding and implementing the policies of the much enlarged nationalised sector.

"In the spring," he says, "a bill will be put to the National Assembly setting out the procedures for drawing up the plan. At that moment we could have some difficult decisions on allocating responsibilities. Until those have been taken there is uncertainty. But I shall see there is no uncertainty after that. I may win or lose but I won't let the uncertainty continue."

Mr. Rocard believes that the ministry of planning will have a substantial role to play. His idea is that the nationalised sector should be divided into two — public services, such as railways and utilities, on the one hand, and companies exposed to international competition on the other.

An inter-ministerial committee would translate the government's priorities in the plan into contracts applicable to different state enterprises. The task of actually negotiating the contracts and seeing that they are carried out would lie with the ministers concerned. For example, the transport minister would deal with railways and the minister of industry would handle the manufacturing sector.

"But there will also be a record of these negotiations and a staff to prepare it. That will be the job of my ministry," Mr. Rocard pointedly adds.

The planning ministry would also ensure that state enterprises followed common methods. Thus, the ministry would be concerned with the external balance of payments of each group; its exports and overseas requirements for patents and research licences; with the "social" policies it pursued; with its research policy; and with the decentralisation of investment. Mr. Rocard adds that he has a front-line function in the latter area because of his shared responsibilities for decentralisation.

Mr. Rocard stresses that state enterprises must be run on a competitive basis. If the state asks them to perform public services, like running uneconomic branch lines for the railways, then it must compensate them.

Mr. Rocard believes that the private sector's reluctance to invest is a "temporary psychological problem," reflecting employers' distrust of a socialist government. Mr. Rocard is concerned that the higher growth will worsen France's import bill and hence its balance of payments.

He points out that France imports 24 per cent of what it consumes. In the long run the only answers, as he sees them, to this structural weakness are to make savings in the nation's energy bill and to develop French industry where imports are abnormally high — he mentions wood, leather and machine tools.

He believes the government should take a strongly interventionist line over machine tools, slimming the industry to companies which can compete abroad or hold their own in the domestic market and abandon the rest.

"Our philosophy is strongly competitive.... Each time the state asks a company to do more than sound competition would require of it, then the state must compensate it.... A company that is run at a permanent loss adopts a mentality of security that is no longer productive," he says.

Mr. Rocard clearly wants to restore planning to the eminence it achieved in France during the 1950s and 1960s, when it was synonymous with high economic growth. Its influence later declined under President Giscard d'Estaing, who disliked the concept of planning because he felt it was too interventionist and smacked of Socialism. He also disliked the planners' austere policies of the time because they pointed to a lower standard of living.

In spite of his tongue in cheek ambition that the French economy should run at twice the pace of West Germany, Mr. Rocard has not much faith in planning based on macro-economic forecasts. Mr. Rocard's two-year intermediary plan (1982-83) has been criticised by employers' organisations and trade unions for its lack of an economic framework to help companies make decisions. More cynically, they believe it reflects some of Mr. Rocard's possible doubts about the two years ahead.

Mr. Rocard says that his decision to omit a macro-economic framework was deliberate and carefully weighed. He believes that macro-economic forecasts amid the present uncertainties of the world economy do not have much value and that, inevitably, the change of government in France has added an uncertainty of its own.

Rather than face the risk that such forecasts become untenable, he prefers to try to accustom French public opinion to the broad goals of 3 per cent growth a year over the next two years, a hoped for reduction in the rate of inflation and stabilising unemployment next year before bringing it down in 1983.

For Mr. Rocard, the "great gamble" of the immediate future is whether private manufacturing investment will recover. "The strategy of the two-year plan," he says, "is based on private investment taking off. So is the government's 1982 budget. One of the areas in which planned expenditure is to rise fastest is in the value of aid to industry."

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At the Ottawa summit in July, he made a plea to U.S. President Reagan for a total revision of the international monetary system, not only to help the wealthy out of their crisis, but also to help the poor out of theirs. He also reiterated the need to tackle economic problems in the context of North-South relations.

He has laid special emphasis on the question of commodities. Within the EEC the French, along with the Dutch and the Belgians, would like to review STABEX (a commodities stabilisation scheme linking the EEC and 60 developing nations) which they feel offers a satisfactory formula for stabilising the commodity market given better funding.

The French are lobbying their European partners to put their view once again to the Americans. The international monetary system must be the pillars of any global negotiations.

Mitterrand would like to see France play a key role in ensuring that global negotiations for a new world economic order result in concrete action. A series of international meetings in 1981 has given him the opportunity to air his views.

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— Earthscan

On earth peace

"GLORY BE to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men." These words, spoken on the first Christmas, are recited, chanted and sung every year. The Christmas celebrations of this winter are no exception.

The traditional salutations, pious expressions and calls for peace and love may get to sounding a bit trite and worn-out at times. But that warm feeling does have a tendency to reassert itself in the company of loved ones and friends; almost in spite of oneself, it seems. One tends to feel that there must really be something to it all.

We are supposed to feel these sentiments all the more strongly because of our proximity to the place where the whole story started. With Bethlehem only a few kilometres away, the thinking goes, we ought to be able to catch the true spirit of Christmas. But our joy is dampened by the thought of what really goes on in that Bethlehem of today. Any pilgrims who made it to the site of the Nativity with their spirits yet unclouded, we expect, would be less than delighted at the sight of heavily armed Israeli soldiers surrounding the celebrations.

Bethlehem—and the rest of the Holy Land—are now so saturated with repression and fear that it is hard to recall that it was here that the Gospel message was first heard. There is little peace, even less goodwill among those in power and those living under occupation. And surely, whoever's glory is being proclaimed under the areligious creed of Zionism, it isn't that of God.

We are left to hope, as we have on so many Christmases in years past, that next year may bring some change, and a spark of truth and justice may begin to shine.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

King Hussein addresses Arabs

AL RA' I: His Majesty King Hussein has called on the Arabs to be honest with themselves and warned them against the dangers threatening the Arab Nation.

In an interview with Al Nahar Al Arabi Wa Al Duwali magazine, the King explained that these dangers are represented in the boundless Israeli ambitions and in the current Arab situation. He said that the size of the problem is not manifested in the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights but in Israel itself. He pointed out that Israel threatens the very Arabs' existence while Zionism is seeking to internationalise the conflict in this Arab region. This internationalisation is bound to hurl the Arabs into a whirlpool of international conflicts and jeopardises their freedom, achievements and future. This will also turn the Arab region into a hot spot which may threaten world peace.

The King also explained that the real solution lies in dealing with the Arab situation. Only then will the Arab Nation be able to measure up to the challenges facing it. This dealing with the Arab situation must take place at the highest level and must depend on our being honest with ourselves.

The meaning of the King's statements is that it is the Arab leadership which is responsible to deal with the current Arab situation and to rise with it to the level of the challenge that the problem being not one of Israeli excesses only but one of Israel itself, since the entire Arab existence is threatened by Israel.

The King's farsighted comments which show a real understanding of the issue should pave the way for the much needed joint Arab action. They are meant to alert the Arab leadership to rectify the inter Arab relations and to build the Arab intrinsic strength.

We hope that the Arab leaders will hasten to embark on taking action because Sharon is threatening to implement measures similar to those on the Golan Heights elsewhere in the occupied Arab territories. Eitan is boasting that the Israeli military strength stops at no limits and the Israeli radio is praising the efforts being exerted to "ensure" a U.S. veto which will prevent imposing any international punishment on Israel.

We stress again that these developments do not give the Arab leaders any option but to act promptly to transcend their differences and to resort to united action which dictates that they should be honest with themselves in the first place.

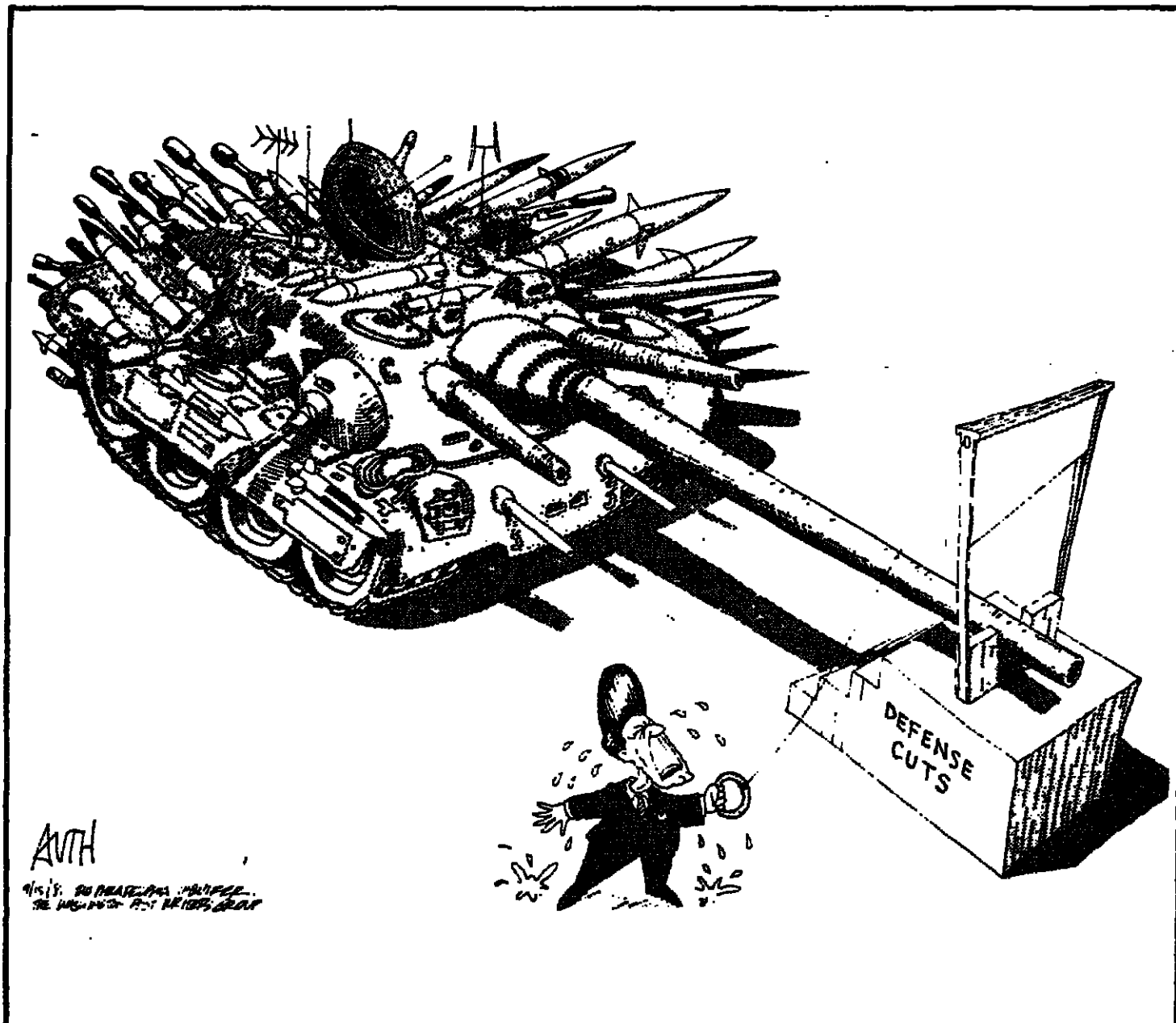
A call for unity

AL DUSTOUR: It is very important to resume the Arab summit conference as soon as possible in order to face the grave escalating events. But more important than this is the good and comprehensive preparation for such a conference if it is to be a successful meeting which can achieve the hopes pinned on it.

This fact was stressed by His Majesty King Hussein in his interview with Al Nahar Al Arabi Wa Al Duwali magazine. The King stressed the need for the Arab leadership to deal with all Arab issues on a pan-Arab level and to set up the string bases of comprehensive Arab solidarity.

The aim of the summit should not be just to transcend differences but to establish a commitment to the interests of the nation, to defend its rights and to share no efforts in facing the gravest perils ever faced by the Arab Nation.

The King is of the opinion that the forthcoming Arab summit conference should deal with the Israeli aggression on the Golan Heights, the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Lebanese issue. These are pan-Arab issues that should be dealt with by all the Arab leaders who have to reach a unified formula for joint Arab action and stand.



France attempts new deal with Third World

France's socialist President Francois Mitterrand has surrounded himself with advisers experienced in development matters and eager for a "new deal" for the Third World. French aid is to increase and to focus more on rural development. That is the theory. In practice, it may prove difficult to restructure the complex web of French foreign policy. Françoise Mosler, a senior reporter on the French news magazine L'Express.

As soon as he was elected President of France, Socialist Francois Mitterrand began trying to bring about radical changes in France's policy towards the Third World.

He chose colleagues who, in their different ways, have some experience of development problems, and who have been critical of French foreign policy over the past 30 years.

These include men such as Gaston Defferre, Minister for Home Affairs and Decentralisation, and, in the post of Counsellor to the Presidency, Regis Debray, the famous Marxist revolutionary of the 1960s who fought alongside the Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara in Bolivia.

But above all there is Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. Commissioner of the European Economic Commission in Brussels from 1973 until this year, and the

key figure behind the Lome Convention linking 57 developing nations with Europe. He has been replaced in his European post by Edgard Pisani, a minister under former president Charles de Gaulle who joined the Socialist Party in 1975 and who is himself convinced that North-South relations are the crux of the present world crisis.

France's new policy is based, at least in theory and in political rhetoric, on a few simple principles.

First, the Socialist government wants to restore France's image as the home of freedom and human rights. Recent calls for a settlement of the Namibia question excluding South Africa and for responsible arms sales are an attempt to replace the cynicism and realpolitik which has characterised much French foreign policy with a little more moral principle and privileged treatment of nations which respect human rights.

Second, the president and his ministers have together clarified their idea of a New Deal for the planet. Even before Mitterrand's election, Cheysson wrote on this at some length in the national daily newspaper Le Monde.

"Development", he explained, "is a Third World right, but the market as conceived by classical economics is not able to respect this right because it is dominated

by huge companies." He called for more aid and noted that "in any case, developing the Third World is the only way of preventing the economic bankruptcy of the wealthy Western nations."

The third principle guiding new French policy is that of responsibility. France will no longer sell anything and everything at any price. Aid choices will be based on development needs rather than the balancing of a Francophone developing nation's budget.

Underlying these principles is the conviction of President Mitterrand and his government that changes can actually be made, that world politics should not simply be left to the two superpowers, nor the economy to the multinationals. The wave of conservatism and introspection which is currently sweeping industrialised countries must be resisted.

All this marks a break with the past. France's policy towards the Third World has successively been marked by colonialism, Gaullism and the cynicism of the business world under President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. When France used to speak of the Third World, it meant Francophone Africa, where she played a key role through her relations with the new nations' leaders.

Former President Charles de Gaulle's policy was ambiguous, upholding both decolonisation and French domination. In 1964, during a tour of Latin America, he spoke of the fight against poverty, of aid given free of political pressure. But behind these words, there existed a tight business and political network in Africa which had been set up to benefit the French ruling class.

With Giscard, French economic and industrial strategy outweighed the economic development of recipients of French aid. Africa was seen as a market, and industrialisation which benefited French firms was favoured. Hence France's interest in mineral resources and the nations which had them, such as Gabon, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Zaire.

At the same time, France considered Francophone Africa to be its own backyard, and France was always ready to use military intervention to safeguard its interests, sending troops into Zaire, Mauritania, Central African Republic and Chad over one five-year period.

In 1978, France's aid budget reached \$2.7 billion, or 0.57 per cent of GNP, according to the OECD. But almost half this sum was allocated to French territories and regions overseas. The remainder was assigned to Francophone Africa and the Maghreb, excluding some of the poorest nations. Some 60 per cent of

ملئنا صند الامل

ECONOMY

Growth in world trade may double in 1982

TOKYO, Dec. 26 (R) — After a poor performance this year, growth in world trade in 1982 should more than double as industrial nations ease out of recession, according to the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

In its world trade forecast, the semi-official organisation said that in real terms (based on a constant 1975 dollar) world trade would rise 3.5 per cent to \$1,238 billion after only 1.7 per cent this

year, but still behind a 4.8 per cent increase in 1980. It expected a steady business recovery particularly after the first quarter of 1982, following lower U.S. interest rates and stable energy costs.

On a nominal basis, this year's world trade showed a 0.5 per cent drop, the first decline in 23 years, but next year it should expand by 9.2 per cent to \$2,176 billion, it said.

Next year, developed country imports would lead trade expansion while imports by dev-

elopment nations particularly oil producers, would level off. Most countries would maintain moderate export increases next year except for the United States, which can expect only a real 0.5 per cent rise because of lack of competitiveness, JETRO said.

Japan can expect a far smaller rise in exports in 1982 of 4.4 per cent in real terms, after an increase of 11.3 per cent this year, while imports, which showed no growth this year, should grow 5.4 per cent.

U.S. car industry shows no signs of recovery

DETROIT, Michigan, Dec. 26 (R) — The slump in the U.S. car industry shows no sign of ending, with domestic manufacturers reporting that their sales in mid-December slowed to their lowest for the period in 22 years.

The five companies sold 104,654 cars from December 11 to 20 compared with 151,751 sold a year ago. Though there were eight selling days this year against nine in 1980, the figures still represented a drop of 22.4 per cent.

The sales total was the worst for any reporting period this year, while the daily sales rate of 13,082 was the lowest for mid-December since 1959.

For months sales have been generally running at their lowest for more than two decades, and the latest figures were the ninth in a row which fell below those of a year ago. This period includes the 1982 model year that began on October 1.

All five companies sold fewer

cars in mid-December, with declines ranging from 14.5 per cent for General Motors to 41.7 per cent for Ford, with Chrysler off 18 per cent. The other companies are American Motors and Volkswagen of America.

For the first 20 days of December, total car sales were 325,420 in 1980, itself a depressed year.

Sales for the year to date were 6,078,764, a 4.9 per cent decline from a year ago.

U.S. Steel gives up options to purchase Marathon shares

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 26 (R) — The U.S. Steel Corporation says it will give up share purchase options it was granted in a takeover battle with the Mobil Corporation for control of the Marathon Oil Company.

The Federal Appeals Court in Cincinnati ruled on Wednesday that the options were manipulative and illegal and the corporation said in a statement yesterday that it would not contest the judgement further.

The options granted by Marathon would have enabled U.S. Steel, if another company won the battle, to buy Marathon's 49.5 per cent share in the Yates oil and gas field in Texas for \$2.8 billion and \$10 million of new Marathon shares at the bargain price of \$90.

Mobil, the second largest oil company in the United States, is widely believed to want Marathon

because of its interest in the Yates field, the largest proven U.S. oil and gas field after Alaska's Prudhoe Bay field.

Marathon's management has already approved U.S. Steel's bid of \$6.3 billion or \$125 a share for 51 per cent of its stock. Mobil has offered \$6.5 billion, one dollar a share more.

Wednesday's court decision also upheld a Judge's ruling barring Mobil's bid on anti-monopoly grounds and the Federal Trade Commission has pledged to fight a Mobil takeover for the same reason.

But Mobil has stayed in the fight. It said recently it intended to buy 25 per cent of U.S. Steel's stock and also disclosed an alternative takeover plan under which it would hold Marathon's reserves and sell other holdings to the Amerada Hess Corporation.

Baoshan - monument to Chinese inefficiency

By Colina MacDougall and Alain Cass

BAOSHAN: Weary officials at the Baoshan steelworks, once the centrepiece of China's modernisation strategy, say that 50,000 workers are engaged in the construction of this ill-starred project.

Nearly three years after work began on the greenfield site near Shanghai, this is not evident. The skyline is broken by idle cranes. Thousands of unopened crates are stacked outside warehouses packed with precision equipment, which will not be used for at least three years.

The only sign of consistent activity at this monument to the inefficiency of Chinese planners is at the blast furnace site, where the main structure is three-quarters finished.

Baoshan was conceived as a major component of China's 1978 programme to double steel capacity by 1985 and reach the forefront of the world's industrial nations by the end of the century. Baoshan's output was to have been 6.7 million tonnes of steel a year — more than one-fifth of China's present capacity.

Since then, Peking has realised that it can neither afford nor digest huge quantities of foreign technology in one bite. A chronic power shortage, limited infrastructure, scarce foreign exchange, a glut of crude steel and the need to raise living standards have led to the wholesale abandonment of the 1978 plan.

Baoshan escaped the axe in 1978, but by 1980 — when the full impact of China's economic problems was evident — the leadership cancelled Baoshan's second stage, the major part of its steel finishing capacity.

The project has been controversial, apparently dividing the leadership, distorting the economy and shaking the world business community's confidence in China's reliability.

After eight months of inactivity, work is slowly resuming on the site and compensation is being agreed with foreign contractors. Officials at the complex speak, albeit uncertainly, of the first steel slabs coming off the production line in 1985.

The first phase of the project is designed to produce 3 million tonnes of crude steel and 500,000 tonnes of seamless steel tubes, half of which is destined for China's young offshore oil industry.

required huge quantities of concrete piling to support the weight of the structures, while Baoshan has no deep water port to accommodate bulk carriers from Australia.

The exact cost of Baoshan's first stage has not been finally calculated. Preliminary official estimates put it at around \$8.5 billion. This year, Baoshan is likely to swallow roughly more than 7 per cent of China's capital con-

struction budget.

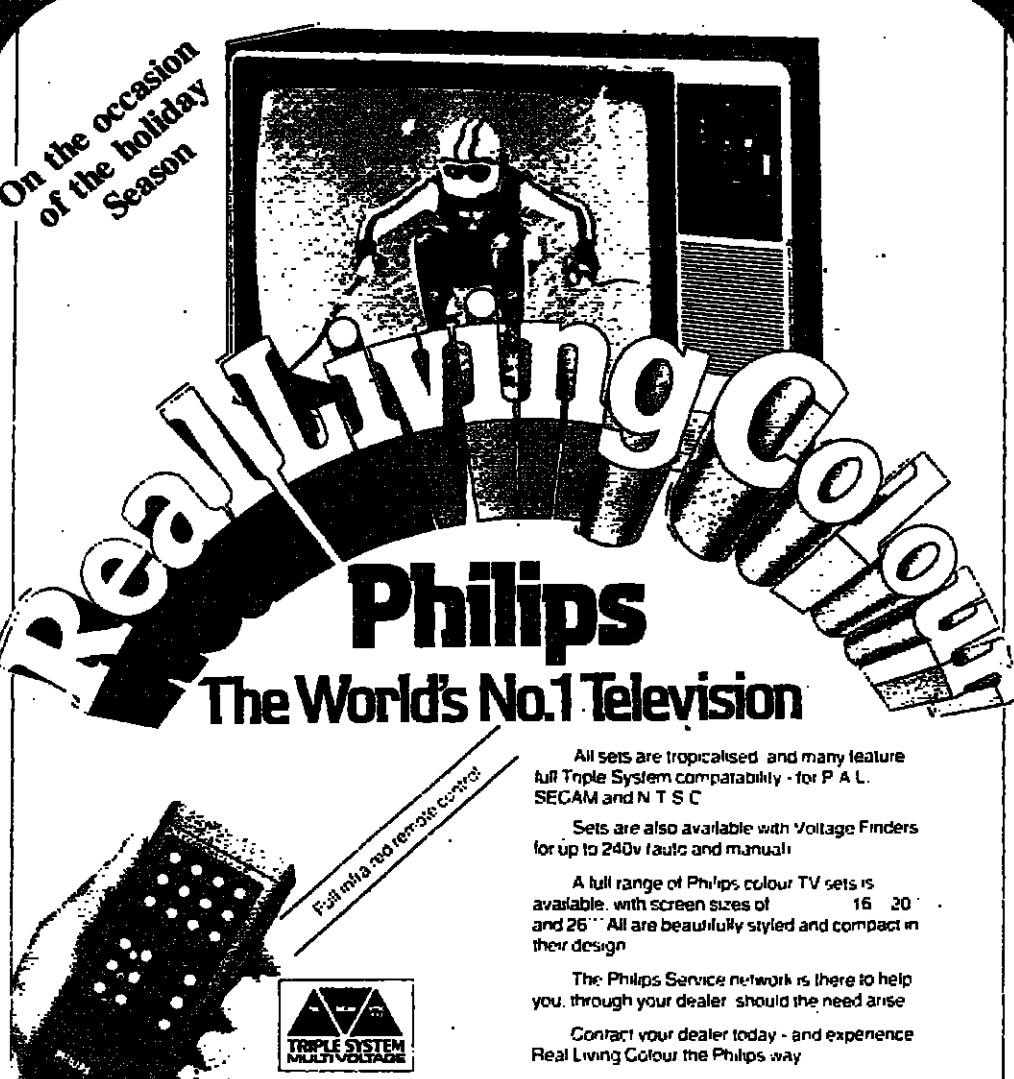
A battle is likely to be waged over whether Baoshan's second phase should be revived. "What China needs is finished steel," said one expert who has followed Baoshan's progress. "Having built stage one at vast expense they may be forced to go ahead in order to benefit from the economies of an integrated complex," he added.

Officials already concede that Baoshan will need a second blast furnace within four to five years of the completion of the first phase. Blast furnaces require major overhauls after such a period.

Although China's first big effort to import Western technology has proved a disaster, Chinese officials and managers seem to have learnt from this bitter experience. The leadership is now more cautious in deciding how to allocate funds.

— Financial Times news feature

On the occasion of the holiday Season



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AGENTS IN JORDAN

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:03 Evening Show
22:00 Close down

CHANNEL 3

5:30 Koran
5:45 Live telecast from Irbid "Basketball match"

7:00 Programme Preview
7:10 Programme on Sports
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:30 Documentary
10:30 Arabic Series
11:30 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6

6:00 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 News in Arabic
9:10 Red Letters Day
10:00 News in English
10:15 The Love Boat

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning Show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
8:00 News Headlines
8:05 Pop Session
11:00 Sign off
12:00 News Headlines
12:03 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:03 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Invention and Discoveries
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:03 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Music

VOICE OF AMERICA

23:15 Letter from America 23:30 A Touch of Genius

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT

04:00 Newsdesk 04:30 Music for Strings 04:45 Financial Review 04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News, British Press Review 05:15 Letterbox 05:30 Golden Treasury 05:45 Letter from America 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Jazz for the saking 07:00 World News; News about Britain 07:15 From Our Own Correspondent 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 Leave it to Pamith 08:00 World News; Reflections 08:15 The Pleasure's Yours 09:00 World News; British Press Review 09:15 Two Cheers for 1981 09:45 Sports Review 10:15 The Waltz 10:30 Religious Service 11:00 World News; News about Britain 11:15 Letter from America 11:30 Play of the Week 12:30 Baker's Half-Dozen 12:45 Operetta 13:00 World News; Commentary 13:15 Good Books 13:30 World Service Short Story 13:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 14:30 Frank Muir Goes Into... 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Concert Hall 16:00 World News; Commentary 16:15 From our own Correspondent 16:35 Financial Review 16:45 Letter from America 17:00 World News; 17:09 Dizzy and the Fairy Queen 17:40 Reflections 17:45 Sportsweek 18:00 World News; News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsweek 18:30 What Makes People Laugh? 18:00 Country Style 19:15 Radio Theatre: The Lack of the Draw 20:00 World News; Commentary 20:15 Letterbox 20:30 Sunday Half-Hour 21:00 Words that Changed Lives 21:15 The Pleasure's Yours 22:00 World News 22:40 Two Cheers for 1981 22:40 Reflections 22:45 Sportsweek 23:00 World News; Commentary

AMMAN AIRPORT FOR SUNDAY

NOTE: The following airport arrivals and departures are provided to the Jordan Times by the Air information department at Amman Airport. Tel. 92305-6. They should always be verified by phone before the arrival or departure of the flight.

ARRIVALS:

8:00 Cairo (EA)
8:45 Athens
8:55 Agaba
9:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi
9:30 Jeddah
9:40 Kuwait
10:10 Beirut
11:05 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Jeddah (SV)
15:35 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Cairo
16:45 Tripoli, Tunis
17:00 Athens
17:10 Paris
17:30 London
17:45 New York, Vienna
17:50 Brussels, Geneva
18:00 Cairo
19:10 Athens, Zurich (SR)

DEPARTURES:

3:30 Cairo
6:45 Beirut (MEA)
7:00 Frankfurt (LH)
8:30 London (BA)
9:00 Rome (Alitalia)
9:00 Cairo (EA)
9:25 Beirut (MEA)
10:00 Frankfurt
10:20 Rome
11:15 Athens
11:30 Cairo
12:05 Riyadh (SV)
13:00 Cairo (EA)
16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
18:30 Beirut
18:45 Abu Dhabi
19:00 Kuwait
19:15 Dhahran
19:35 Jeddah
19:45 Baghdad
20:15 Baghdad
20:30 Dubai, Muscat
20:45 Bahrain, Doha
21:15 Bangkok
22:00 Baghdad
02:00 Cairo (EA)

EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS:
Amman: Nidal Marqah 71218
Sa'id Sa'd 74730

Irbid: Mohammad Al Ta'ani 3711

Zarqa: Abdul Karim Al Khasbshneh 83022

PHARMACIES:
Amman: Neiroukh 23672

KHAMS

Al Ja'fari 72679
Al Rawabdeh 66033

IRBID:

Al Quds 3443

ZARQA:

Omar Al Halitha (—)

TAXIS:

Jerusalem 39655
Tala 25021
Al Aman 65850
Faisal 22851

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Arab Arts Centre 65195
Al Hussain Youth City 67181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 64251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355/84366

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday to Friday. Closed on Saturdays. Tel. 64240.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed on Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Loubdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 5:08
Sunrise 6:36
Dhuhr 11:37
Asr 2:20
Maghreb 4:37
Isha 6:05

CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Loubdeh 37440

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman 24590

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein 66428

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali 23541

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman 23885

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh 75261

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh 71331

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) 75111
Civil Defence rescue 61111
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36382-2
Municipal water service (emergency) 37111-3
Police headquarters 39141
Najdah roving patrol rescue police. (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA) 92205/92206
Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111

MARKET PRICES

Tomatoes	350	200
Eggplant	170	120
Potatoes (imported)	150	100
Marrow (small)	150	100
Marrow (large)	90	70
Cucumber (small)	360	250
Cucumber (large)	290	150
Hot Green Pepper	180	120
Sweet Pepper	170	130
Cabbage	120	80
Onions (dry)	100	70
Green onions	220	170
Garlic	450	400
Spinach	140	100
Coconut (piece)	320	250
Beans	300	250
Bananas	260	200

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Saudi riyal	98.5/99
Lebanese pound	72.5/73.3
Syrian pound	57.4/57.7
Iraqi dinar	612/620.1
Kuwaiti dinar	1197.3/1201.6
Egyptian pound	339/344.4
Qatari riyal	92.3/92.8
UAE dirham	91.7/92.3
Omani riyal	974.3/978.3
U.S. dollar	337/339
U.K. sterling	636.6/640.4
W. German mark	148.4/149.3
Swiss franc	185.8/186.9
Italian lire	27.9/28.1
French franc	58.7/59.1
Dutch guilder	135.2/136
Swedish crown	60.4/60.8
Belgian franc	88/88.5
Japanese yen	153.2/154.1

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Firstaid, fire, police 199
Fire headquarters 22090
Cablegram or telegram 18

Telephones:

Information 12
Jordan and Middle East trunk calls 10
Overseas radio and satellite calls 17
Telephone maintenance and repair service 11

كلمة من الله

SPORTS

Phil Dent gets through to 2nd round of Australian Open via a spectacular comeback

MELBOURNE, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Veteran Australian Davis Cup tennis player Phil Dent staged a spectacular comeback against young South Australian John Fitzgerald in their opening round clash today in the \$400,000 Marlboro Australian Open at Koo-yong.

Dent fell behind two sets to love and 0-4 in a third set tiebreaker, but scrapped his way back in the match and defeated Fitzgerald 5-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The 20-year-old Fitzgerald had the match snatched away from

him when he was just three points away from a straight sets victory. Dent, who lost to American Tim Wilkison in the quarterfinals of a tournament in Sydney last week, started his comeback in a tiebreaker, winning seven points in a row as he snatched the set away from the startled Fitzgerald.

The 31-year-old Dent said he becomes self critical during tournaments, and after last week's loss he was "steaming inside".

Dent said the opening game of the fourth set, after he returned from an optional 10-minute break, was the most important in

the match.

Even though he was serving, he said winning the first game after the break was a major psychological advantage for him.

Fitzgerald said he was not serving well, but added, "there is a lot of adrenalin involved when one guy gets it going his way."

Earlier, former champion Mark Edmondson cruised through to the second round with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Victorian Pat Cash, the world's top-ranked junior.

If Edmondson recaptures the form that brought him victory here over John Newcombe here in 1976, he stands to gain a lucrative payout.

Apart from the \$64,000 first prize for winning the title, he would pick up 350 Grand Prix points, giving him a berth in the eight-man Volvo Masters' tournament to be played in New York next month.

However, Edmondson said it would not be until the semifinal stage that he would get "psyched up" enough to think about winning the tournament.

Third-seeded Roscoe Tanner breezed through to the second round with a straight sets win over young Victorian Greg Whitecross. The American won 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Romanian Ilie Nastase caused a delay of several minutes during his 4-6, 3-6, 2-6 loss to New Zealander Chris Lewis.

West Indies in trouble at end of 1st day of test

MELBOURNE, Dec. 26 (R) — Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee moved to within two wickets of a world record number of test dismissals when he destroyed the early part of the West Indies innings in the first cricket test today.

Lillee took three for three in the final half hour of the day to leave the touring team perilously placed at 10 for four in reply to Australia's first innings score of 198.

Lillee now has 308 test wickets—one short of the record held by West Indian Lance Gibbs.

While the irrepressible Lillee was the crowd's favourite late in the day, former skipper Kim Hughes was the Australians' saviour after their innings had got off to an equally wretched start on the much criticised Melbourne pitch.

Hughes hit a brilliant unbeaten 100, which included 11 boundaries, after the West Indian pacemen had sent back the first three batsmen for only eight runs.

Hughes was 24 short of his century when last man Terry Alderman came in but he survived for almost an hour to add 43 with Hughes.

Michael Holding, with five for 45, was the pick of the West Indian attack.

China-New Zealand qualifier to be played in Singapore

ZURICH, Dec. 26 (R) — Singapore will be the venue for the World Soccer Cup qualifying play-off between China and New Zealand, the International Football Federation (FIFA) announced today.

FIFA said the match would take place on January 10 and named Romoaldo Arppi Filbo of Brazil as the referee.

New Zealand, who earned a play-off by beating Saudi Arabia 5-0 to share second place with China in the Asia-Oceania qualifying group, protested earlier this week when FIFA announced the venue as the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

India 172 for 3 at end of day in reply to England's massive 476

NEW DELHI, Dec. 26 (R) — Indian vice-captain Gundappa Viswanath chose the right occasion to end a disappointing run of scores on the third day of the third cricket test against England today.

Viswanath came to the wicket with India struggling at 41 for two in reply to England's huge first innings score of 476 for nine declared.

The follow-on target of 277 still looked a long way off but by the close Viswanath had guided his side to 172 for three, his share being 67 not out.

Tomorrow the Indians need only 105 more to make England bat again and if they achieve that target the touring team's chances of forcing a win to square the six-match series will almost certainly have gone.

England, resuming this morning at 428 for four, lost five wickets in little over an hour as they chased quick runs.

Taiwan wins 5 golds in gymnastics meet

TAIPEI, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Taiwan captured five golds, seven silver and five bronze medals in the men's and women's events of the 1981 international Gymnastic Friendship meet here tonight.

The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA-USA) took three golds in the men's competition, while South Korea and the University of Illinois (USA) each collected two gold medals.

Chiang Chien-Chang of the host country won one gold each in the men's floor exercises and long horse, while Chen Su-Mei, Chen Hsiang-Yin, and Huang Su-Cheng each grabbed one gold in the women's floor exercises, uneven parallel bars, and long horse.

Mark Caso of UCLA was the top winner in the men's individual all-round event, while Yoo Ki-Keum of Korea finished first in the women's all-round competition. Caso also captured only gold in the parallel bars.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
©1981 by Chicago Tribune

North-South vulnerable.
South deals.

NORTH
♠ QJ105
♥ KJ7
♦ 876
♣ AJ9

EAST
♠ 632
♥ 852
♦ A10
♣ Q7654

SOUTH
♠ A874
♥ AQ
♦ 5432
♣ K3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣.

shifted to a heart, despite his partner's discard. Declarer won in dummy and the contract hinged on not losing a trump trick. The percentage play, by a wide margin, is to finesse for the king, but declarer unhesitatingly led a trump to the ace, dropping

West's singleton king, thus making his contract.

We can assure you that declarer did not get a peek at either defender's hand. Can you tell us why declarer ignored the percentage finesse for a line that was greatly against the odds?

Declarer was simply giving West credit for being a fine defender! West knew that his partner was out of diamonds and he knew that if East held the king of spades, he could be finessed out of it. So why did not an expert West lead his last diamond giving partner, if he did indeed hold the king, the opportunity to overruff dummy to score the setting trick?

Declarer reasoned that West had to know that his partner did not have the king of spades. If West led his last diamond, declarer would ruff high in dummy and, when East could not overruff, the location of the king would be revealed. And the only way that West could be sure that his partner did not have the king of spades was because he held it himself!

Since the finesse was bound to fail, declarer's only hope was that West held a singleton king. So declarer hopped up with the ace of spades and virtue triumphed.

Do you think like a bridge expert? The problem on this hand is not just to find the winning play, but to tell us why you adopted the line you did.

North was a whit weak for a jump raise, especially since his hand contained no ruffing value. However, he could find no better bid, and the final contract was certainly reasonable.

West led the king of diamonds; East overtook with the ace and returned the ten. West won the jack and cashed the queen to complete the defensive book, as East discarded a low heart. West, an expert player, now

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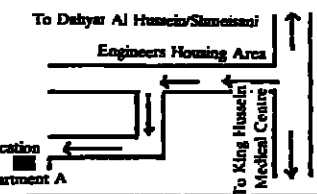
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FEATURES

Georgia: land of the Golden Fleece

Michael Coveney visits the historical playground of the Soviet Union's poets and painters.

— Financial Times news feature

Georgia is the south of France of the Soviet Union, the historical playground of poets and painters, a country of sunshine and health resorts, of warm springs and lush vegetation. Snow-capped mountains and impressive valleys complete the romantic image.

The military highway running from Tbilisi over the main ridge of the Caucasus is the road taken by Lermontov and one of his heroes; Gorky and Tolstoy waxed eloquent on the country's attractions. Legend gets a look in, too: Prometheus was chained to a rock in the Caucasus, while Colchis (the ancient name for Georgia) was where Jason discovered the Golden Fleece.

Georgia today produces iron, steel, machine tools, trains, cars, tractors and over 95 per cent of the Soviet Union's tea. A fifth of the 5 million population is concentrated in Tbilisi, a wonderful city that sits like a giant amphitheatre on the spurs of mountain ridges, the river Kura flowing through the centre.

In late October I sat at an improvised luncheon at the top of Mount Mtatsminda (you can go up by funicular) drinking in the view with a goodly selection of local wines. The weather was warm, bright, without any trace of humidity (October and November are clement months, the spring ideal, July and August unbearably hot). I scanned the vista: two football stadia (the larger the home of Dynamo Tbilisi), the conical ste-

eples and arched windows of medieval churches, the open-work wooden balconies decorating the houses in both old and new parts of the city. Time seemed more elastic than ever in a place where relaxation is *de rigueur*.

On whatever basis you visit Georgia — I went as a guest of the Rustaveli Theatre in its centenary year — it will not be long before you are sucked into the endless round of hospitality and almost indecently indiscriminate shows of friendship. Finding a restaurant in Tbilisi is difficult and it is best to eat in one of the two main hotels (the Adjara, where I stayed, or the Iveria) but even there you really have to be careful when ordering.

The Georgians confine serious eating to the home and every house I visited, from the humblest to the grandest, boasted a table replete with such delicacies as aubergines stuffed with nut pate, caviar and cream, legs of chicken and turkey in curry sauce, great fians of cheese bread, spare ribs and baked tomatoes, stuffed peppers and kebabs, saddles of lamb served with pomegranate, yoghurt and salads, fruit and cream cakes.

And just when you imagine the feast to be over, out comes a plate of melon and large, yeasty portions of corn on the cob.

At each meal there is enacted the playful ritual of who shall be toast-master, or "tamada." Once nominated, the tamada runs the proceedings and you drain your glass or empty your plate at your peril. The meal is punctuated with all manner of toasts (to loved

ones, dead colleagues, international friendships and anything else appropriate to the gathering) and outbursts of polyphonic folk song that send shivers down your spine and moisten your eye.

The Georgians are as fiercely proud of their traditions and culture as any people in the world. As was explained to me on countless occasions, you can live in the present by respecting your past.

The main street in Tbilisi is the Rustaveli Prospekt, a handsome thoroughfare of trees, wide pavements and imposing buildings. Here you find the theatre, the opera house, the museum and the old basilica. If you stop in a supermarket, you will first be mistaken perhaps for a Bulgarian; then the staff will ask you for cigarettes and bios (stationery is hard to come by).

Everyone with money seemed to be an engineer of some sort, the

best homes invariably laden with valuable icons, grand pianos and expensive furniture. Most women work and children are cared for by grandparents who often live with the family. The ideal Georgian woman, I was told, is she who can both pull the cart and sit in the carriage. I asked the theatre director's wife if Woman's Lib had made any impression in Georgia. The question was met with haughty disdain: "We women of Georgia, we have always been liberated."

Intourist Moscow Limited will, if asked, arrange a five-day stay in Tbilisi, with two nights in Moscow, for a bargain price inclusive of hotel accommodation, air fares and transport between the two Moscow airports. In Tbilisi, for about \$39 a day, you can hire a car to visit the earliest Georgian capital, Mtskheta, only 23 kilometres away, and Gori (90 kilometres), the home town of Stalin whose

humble dwelling has been elaborated into an imposing museum.

Adventurous travellers with time on their hands can make a 44-hour first-class train journey from Moscow to Tbilisi, passing through Kharkov, Rostov and along the Black Sea riviera, for as little as \$97. The journey by road, approximately 2,000 kilometres, takes about five days. There are two routes: down to the Caucasus and around the western end of the mountain range, or else, on reaching the northern Caucasus, straight across Lermontov's military highway.

It is advisable to stay overnight in Moscow before changing airports for Tbilisi; although the flight time from Moscow is only two hours, you need several hours to cross the city. The local Aeroflot service is regular but haphazard in operation: the schedule tends to mean nothing and you

just try to crowd on to whichever plane is on the tarmac. Foreign visitors, soldiers and elderly Russians are given priority and extra flights are invariably arranged to cope with any bulge in demand.

Things happen all the time in Tbilisi. I was fortunate to catch, on Oct. 25, one of the city's most important festivals, the Tbilisobar. People came from far and wide to pack the old town centre for a display of processions, traditional dance, the investiture of distinguished citizens (including Balanchine's brother, a prominent Georgian composer, and the founder of the Georgian Dance Ensemble who gracefully danced her acceptance speech) and an extraordinary ethnographic representation of Georgian localities.

A row of dachas had been constructed overnight for citizens and their guests to wine and dine and dance the afternoon away.

German bestseller about a Nazi Mephistopheles

By David Lewis

— Reuters

BONN — Not for nothing is Goethe's "Faust" Germany's most powerful national epic. Mephistopheles is still capturing souls by the thousand.

Klaus Mann's "Mephisto" has broken all records for its publishers, and West German cinemas have been packed since the film version by Hungarian Istvan Szabo opened here at the end of September.

"Mephisto" has such audience-pulling ingredients as Bob Fosse's "Cabaret", Ingmar Bergman's "Serpent's Egg" and Rainer Werner Fassbinder's "Lili Marleen" — a mixture of glamorous stage life and brutal Nazism.

But the story, which tells how actor Hendrik Hoefgen became director of Berlin's state theatre after Hitler's rise to power, has an

added spice. It revives memories of a fiercely-contested case of court censorship and titillates its audience with the thrill of the peeping tom.

Klaus Mann, son of the novelist Thomas Mann, always said he depicted a type rather than a particular person when he wrote "Mephisto" in 1936.

But few readers can doubt that Hendrik Hoefgen is really a portrait of Gustav Gruendgens, Germany's greatest actor-director this century and the author's one-time colleague, companion, and brother-in-law.

Both started their careers in

Hamburg. Both triumphed as Mephistopheles in Goethe's "Faust."

And both became director of the country's leading theatre in Berlin — Gruendgens under Berlin state president Hermann Goerring and Hoefgen under a fictional premier who displays Goering's unmistakable corpulence and megalomania.

Even the similarity of the names gives it away.

Klaus Mann left Germany in 1933, estranged from his country and from friends who felt able to accommodate the Nazis.

Though Gruendgens' greatest role was as the devil, Mann saw him as playing Faust to Goering's Mephisto — selling his soul for professional advantage.

Goering appointed Gruendgens director of the Berlin theatre in 1934, only months after the actor triumphed as Goethe's devil with Goering's girlfriend and future wife Emmy Sonnemann as leading lady.

"Mephisto" was published in Amsterdam in 1936, subtitled "Story of a Career" and with the epigraph from Goethe:

"I will forgive the actor all the failings of a man; I forgive the man none of the failings of an actor."

It was translated into several languages, but not surprisingly banned in Mann's home country. Klaus Mann committed suicide in 1949 soon after a publisher refused to produce an edition for West Germany.

Gustav Gruendgens had returned to the stage to enormous acclaim after nine-months post-war internment by the Russians, and legal reprisals were feared.

The actor died in Manila in 1963 of an overdose of sleeping tablets, and although he never protested openly against Mann's novel, he did discourage publishers.

Then, when Hamburg publishers Rowohlt decided in 1964 the coast was finally clear, Gruendgens' heir and adoptive son Peter Gorski won a ban on "Mephisto" after only 10,000 copies had been distributed.

The book subsequently went underground until director Ariane Nouchkine dramatised the Gruendgens-Toefgen story on the Paris stage in 1979.

Emboldened, Rowohlt defied the court order and went into print at the end of last year. A house spokesman said Mr. Gorski was apparently no longer interested in the case, living in Ibiza.

THE BETTER HALF

By Vinson

"Harriet was supposed to tell you it's a costume party... not 'come as you are.'"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CORUS

FYNAC

INDUPT

TASOAN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOARD SWISH NOZZLE GAIETY
Answer: How the footwear tycoon started out— ON A SHOESTRING

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 27, 1981

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to think over the various philosophies that are of interest to you and to decide which one suits you best. Make plans to have greater abundance in the new year.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you spend more time with the one you love, you can cement far better relations now. Show others you have poise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study how to handle civic affairs well. Do that reading which you have been putting off for some time. Think constructively.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have jobs to do during the week which should be planned and organized well today for best results. Be wise.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take time to put your finest creative talents to work and gain more appreciation from others.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Focus your energies on home and family and have more harmony there in the future. Be poised in all your activities today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Show increased devotion to family members and gain more harmony. Be sure to schedule week's work before you retire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Planning financial affairs for the week ahead is wise. Much peace and happiness is yours for the asking at this time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Taking the treatments you need in order to feel and look better is wise. Limit your social activities for this day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study how close you are to gaining your most cherished goals. Maintain present harmony with family members.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Show a good friend your devotion and improve the relationship. Not a good day to attend a social function.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study the right outlet that could give you added income in the future. Show more devotion to family members.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Put those inspiring ideas to work and you do much to enhance your present success and happiness. Show affection for loved one.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will find it easy to get at the truth of any complicated situation, and should have the education directed along investigational lines for best results. There's a brilliant and inquiring mind in this chart.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Jordan Electricity Authority

Aqaba Thermal Power Station

TENDER NO. 1/82

TURBINE GENERATOR ISLAND

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the availability of the turbine generator island documents, Tender No. 1/82 for the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, as of Dec. 23, 1981 from the consulting engineer's offices, and as of Dec. 28, 1981 from the Jordan Electricity Authority offices.

The tender consists of supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of 2x130 MW steam turbines and generators, with all auxiliaries.

It is expected that only internationally competent firms with ample experience in this type of work outside their own country will participate in this tender.

Documents are available for collection against payment of non refundable fee of JD 150 or U.S. \$450 per set consisting of two copies, at the following addresses:

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Purchase and Procurement Department
Jabal Amman, Fifth Circle
P.O. Box 2310 Amman, Jordan
Telex No. 21259 JEASAK JO

Chas. T. Main International Inc.
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Peanuts

TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS...

IT'S MY OWN COMPOSITION

THAT'S NICE... I LIKE CHRISTMAS MUSIC...

Mutt 'n' Jeff

MUTT YOU HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS!

YEAH—I KNOW!

I'M GONNA TRY MY HAND AT WRITING AGAIN!

REMEMBER THE TIME I GOT TEN DOLLARS A WORD?

I SURE DO!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE TALKED BACK TO THAT JUDGE THE WAY YOU DID!

Andy Capp

OPEN UP, PET—I'VE COME BACK TO YOU!

ALL RIGHT! BE LIKE THAT!!

GREAT, ISN'T IT? SHE OPENED THE DOOR TO ME TO TELL ME IT'S CLOSED TO ME!

THE Daily Crossword

By William Newland

ACROSS

1 Meek one

5 Violin

10 Singer Lane

14 Tune for Pavarotti

15 Norman Vincent

16 Melee

17 "Golden Hind" skipper

20 Protection

21 Offences

22 Actress

23 Gator's kin

24 Storage areas

27 Corporal's charge

31 Switch to another track

32 Hush money

33 Actor

34 Secret society

35 Went up

36 Pith

37 Alt. Fr.

38 Mischief-maker

39 Belled the cat

40 Polite regard

42 Limits

43 Burden

44 Beany

45 Gets up

48 City ways

51 St. Paul's architect

54 Tops

55 Bay window

56 Hatchback.

57 Pairs

58 Virile

59 Four seasons

18 Respond to stimuli

19 Motorad

23 Incisive

24 On the move

25 Gunwale pin — in (dials)

27 Campus dances

28 Vexatious thing

29 Like a ewer

30 Luge and puns

32 Pesky kids

35 Get used to

36 Florida

38 Mails

39 Indulgent one

41 Translations for students

42 Just about

44 Miss Merman

45 Food fish

46 Biblical pronoun

47 Cartoonist Peter

48 Gyrate

49 Valid

50 — precedent

52 outhouse

53 Neither's tag-along

12 Make pizza

13 Ocelli

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كلمات من القرآن

WORLD

Underground miners pose 'last challenge' to Warsaw

VIENNA, Dec. 26 (R) — An underground strike by 1,100 miners today posed the last major challenge to military rule in Poland, Warsaw Radio reported.

The sit-in by the men, who occupied the Piast mine in the Silesian coalfield when martial law was imposed two weeks ago, was "the only critical and tragic spot" left, it added.

The radio said all of Poland's big cities were calm as the country completed bleak Christmas celebrations because of the political crisis and food shortages.

Other reports reaching the West however indicated continuing resistance with the Warsaw branch of the Solidarity free trade union calling for more passive protests by workers.

The union said in a bulletin circulated in the capital that such action would strengthen the hand of the Roman Catholic Church in negotiations with the authorities.

Pope John Paul's personal envoy to Poland, Archbishop Luigi Poggi, arrived in Vienna from Warsaw on his way back to Rome. But church officials gave no details of his talks with Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski who heads the military government.

Mistreatment of dissidents

Polish sources abroad added to Solidarity charges that the authorities had mistreated dissidents rounded up under martial law.

Nobel Prize-winning author Czeslaw Milosz alleged in Washington that Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik, who were in the forefront of opposition to the Pol-

ish Communist Party, had been tortured and beaten since their arrest.

Japan said meanwhile that a senior official would travel to West Europe on Monday for consultations on whether to follow the United States and impose economic sanctions on Poland.

Warsaw Radio said 1,160 miners were still underground at the Piast mine in southern Poland despite the entreaties of wives and relatives whose tearful pleas to the men to give up were broadcast yesterday.

The authorities allege that many of the men are being held against their will by Solidarity militants. The radio said it was now hoped that the protest would be over by the new year.

An occupation at the neighbouring Ziemowit mine is already over and normal work is expected to resume on Monday, according to the radio.

Explosive situation at mine

The Soviet news agency TASS reported that a lieutenant-colonel, described as the Ziemowit mine's commissar, said on Polish Television last night that the strikers had amassed a tonne of explosives underground.

Passage ways and exits had been blocked, he added.

As further evidence of things getting back to normal, the radio said work would also start again on Monday at the Huta Katowice steel mill where troops smashed a strike last week.

The charges of torture by Mr. Milosz followed allegations by

Solidarity of inhumane treatment by the authorities of detainees.

The union's Warsaw bulletin said that on one occasion, 300 prisoners had been kept outside for a whole night at a Wroclaw jail in freezing temperatures and doused hourly with water.

Mr. Milosz, whose statement was signed by two other prominent Poles in the United States, said he had learned from reliable sources that Mr. Kuron and Mr. Michnik were tortured.

He said their lives were in danger and appealed to international organisations including Amnesty International to intervene on their behalf.

Bleak Christmas

Reports reaching the West said Poles packed churches for subdued Christmas services. The normal joyous mood was missing in most homes which were deprived by shortages of their traditional Christmas fare.

The reports said many areas of Warsaw had no water on Christmas eve. Presents were also sparse because of the lack of consumer goods in the shops.

The authorities lifted an 11 p.m. curfew to allow people to attend midnight mass which was celebrated by Archbishop Poggi at St. John's Cathedral in Warsaw.

Solidarity said church leaders were now negotiating with Gen. Jaruzelski's government to try to find a political solution to the crisis.

Solidarity urges resistance

The union said its call for continued passive resistance was intended to strengthen the position of the church negotiators.

"If we display our intention to fight against the regime of Jaruzelski, these negotiations can make possible a way out of this blind alley..." the bulletin said.

It suggested that workers at the Ursus tractor plant near Warsaw should be taken as a model. The bulletin said they produced only one tractor in the first week of martial law.

Ethiopian government refuses to return occupied churches

NAIROBI, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — The Ethiopian government has refused to return the headquarters of the Lutheran church in Addis Ababa which it seized at gunpoint last month, Western diplomats based in Ethiopia said today.

The eight-storey headquarters of the Evangelical church Mekane Yesus, the largest Protestant church in Ethiopia, has been turned into government offices. Mekane Yesus groups various Scandinavian and German Lutheran denominations.

The diplomats, reached by telephone from Nairobi, said Ethiopian foreign ministry officials insisted in separate meetings this month with Western European diplomats and representatives of various churches that Ethiopia remains open to all religions.

But the diplomats said the government made a distinction between purely religious activities held in churches — and church activities in agriculture, education and health which it said are sub-

Pope calls on world's sufferers to follow example of Saint Stephen

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Pope John Paul II today called on all suffering people to take the example of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, and "lift their eyes high... to see the heavens open."

Speaking from his apartment window to 10,000 pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square on the feast of St. Stephen, the Pope said, "At this time our thoughts are with those people in all corners of the world who are suffering for love of Christ and his brothers. There are millions who are suffering in the confines of their own countries... and we invite them to lift their eyes high and, like St. Stephen, see the heavens open."

The Pope praised the courage of the first century deacon, who was stoned to death for his teachings on the growing differences between Judaism and the Jewish-Christian community.

At the end of his brief address, delivered in Italian, the Pope wished a merry Christmas to all and blessed the crowd standing in the sun-drenched square.

Rebel forces capture strategic Chad town

PARIS, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Rebel troops have captured the strategic town of Oum Hadjer in east-central Chad and peacekeeping troops have been sent to reinforce the neighbouring town of Ati, according to reports reaching Paris.

The commander of the Zaire contingent of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) peacekeeping force said troops loyal to former Chad defence minister Hissene Habre now control Oum Hadjer, more than 240 kilometres inside Chad's border from neighbouring Sudan, according to the French news agency Agence Fra-

U.S. says Soviets increase troop strength in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has sent 5,000 more troops to Afghanistan and may increase its use of chemical weapons to break a military stalemate with Afghan rebels, a senior State Department official said today.

The troops, boosting the Soviet force to 90,000, were seen as a sign of Moscow's concern about the progress of the war since Soviet forces entered Afghanistan two years ago tomorrow.

"It suggests that the Soviets think their forces are spread too thin to counteract the growing resistance," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

The official cited evidence that Soviet authorities in Afghanistan were currently under pressure to produce results.

Soviet forces recently intensified their offensive operations and several days ago Moscow sent a high-level military delegation to Kabul for a protracted stay, he said.

"There is growing concern that this pressure will lead to an increased use of chemical warfare by the Soviets," he said.

Afghans stage protest in Delhi

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, about 100 Afghan men, women and children began a

24-hour sit-in-hunger strike today on the broad lawn in front of the Soviet embassy here to mark the second anniversary of the intervention in their country.

New Argentine president has solutions to problems

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 26 (R) — Argentina's new military president has ordered a big dose of austerity and a smaller state role in the economy as a cure for the country's worst crisis this century.

In his first speech to the nation, President Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri said a study on the elimination of superfluous official bodies should be ready by next March and a plan to turn state enterprises over to private enterprise would follow two months later.

"I demand austere behaviour and a careful administration," the 55-year-old army general declared. He criticised what he called the exaggerated needs of "a gigantic bureaucratic machine which does not serve the country any more and must be reduced."

Gen. Galtieri, who assumed office on Tuesday as the third army president of a so-called national reorganisation process, said an erosion of public confidence after five years of military rule was not

enough to warrant a hasty return to barracks.

"It would be illusory to deny a certain apathy, a lack of credibility, but this reality is not enough to question the value of the process begun on March 24, 1976," he said.

Gen. Galtieri described as a triumph the military's tough campaign against leftist guerrillas, during which thousands of people disappeared. But he said he knew that this sole achievement was not enough to win the nation's support.

"We have not fought and died to go back to our barracks without having achieved the goals set in the basic programme of the national reorganisation process," he added.

The president did not announce any specific plans for the restoration of democratic rule despite an increasingly vocal campaign by the country's major civilian parties.

Shehu was forced to kill himself?

Yugoslav magazine casts doubts on Albanian prime minister's end

BELGRADE, Dec. 26 (R) — A Yugoslav magazine said today that Albanian Prime Minister Mehmed Shehu was either forced to commit suicide or was murdered," the magazine said.

Albanian diplomats denied the report, saying that no such central committee meeting had taken place. They said there had been no dispute between the two leaders.

Western diplomatic sources said that while there was plenty of speculation about Mr. Shehu's suicide, there was no hard evidence available to them to suggest it was other than as officially reported by Albania.

The magazine also published an article by a former Yugoslav ambassador to Tirana which emphasised that Mr. Shehu had faithfully followed every twist and turn of his leader's policies.

Albania and Yugoslavia are neighbours but have followed different communist policies and are at loggerheads over nationalist disturbances in the southern province of Kosovo.

Peking marks Mao's 88th birthday

PEKING, Dec. 26 (R) — China marked the 88th anniversary of Mao Tse-tung's birth today with an article praising the late Chinese leader for his tolerance and broad intellect.

Vice-Premier Bo Yibo, one of thousands of senior officials whom Mao purged during the cultural revolution, wrote that Mao was a dedicated revolutionary devoted to learning and said he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of classical Chinese literature.

The generally positive attitude in the article, published in the Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily, was in strong contrast to vitriolic attacks published

on Mao last summer.

Mr. Bo said Mao "sought truth through facts," a slogan frequently used by his successors who wish to cast off the burden of Maoist dogmatism in favour of more pragmatic policies.

He praised Mao for believing that "there is no need to fear differing opinions or debate" but did not refer to the discredited cultural revolution which Mao launched in 1966 and in which millions of people died or were persecuted for disagreeing with the party line.

He did however criticise Mao for launching the disastrous "great leap forward" and forcing peas-

ants to form people's communes in 1958.

The great leap forward was an economic experiment aimed at boosting industrial output and people were encouraged to produce pig-iron in their back yards.

It was enormously wasteful and was at least partly responsible for a serious famine which affected the entire country a couple of years later.

In a document to mark the 60th anniversary of the Communist Party last summer, Mao was attacked for committing calamitous errors in the last 20 years of his life, in particular the cultural revolution.

Moscow embassy basement hunger strike called off

MOSCOW, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — One of seven Pentecostal Christians holed up in the basement of the U.S. embassy in Moscow has decided against a hunger strike she had previously announced, embassy officials said today. Angelina Vashchenko, who had declared she would stop eating and drinking on Christmas Day, decided against it after consulting with U.S. consular officers and an American doctor attached to the embassy, they said. Ms. Vashchenko is one of seven members of the Pentecostal sect who have been living in the embassy since they rushed past Soviet guards seeking refuge more than three years ago. The seven have applied to emigrate to the United States.

Fire breaks out on Canadian tanker

MATANE, Quebec, Dec. 26 (R) — Three crewmen died and nine were reported missing when fire broke out on a Canadian oil tanker in the St. Lawrence River, a coastguard spokesman said. He said nine men had been rescued from the 4,000-ton Hudson Transport. The cause of the fire was not known.

Purdah-clad 'dips' arrested in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — Two women clad in the Muslim purdah dress were reported arrested by police for picking pockets in the crowded New Delhi railway station. The women were caught when they allegedly removed 575 rupees (\$65) from the pocket of a railroad passenger, police officials said. The officials also disclosed that the two women were suspected of robbing passengers on crowded trains and at railway stations in northern India.

Police intervention averts gypsy massacre

VALENCIA, Spain, Dec. 26 (R) — Police prevented a Christmas Day massacre by breaking up a bloodfeud gunbattle between two Spanish gypsy families, but a 65-year-old woman was killed and seven people injured, a police spokesman said today. Forty people were arrested, 20 guns and 16 cars confiscated. The arrival of police sooner after the shooting began "avoided a massacre," a police spokesman said.

IMF, World Bank meetings postponed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (R) — Next year's annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Toronto has been advanced to avoid conflict with a major Muslim holiday, a fund spokesman said today. The meeting will be held from Sept. 6-9 rather than from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, when the feast of 'Id al 'Adha occurs, the spokesman said. The feast marks the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Ecevit to be set free soon

ANKARA, Dec. 26 (R) — Former prime minister Bulent Ecevit will probably be freed from prison on Jan. 20, his lawyers said today. A leftist who was prime minister three times in the 1970's, Mr. Ecevit, 56, went into prison on Dec. 3 after the Ankara martial law tribunal convicted him of violating the military government's ban on public statements by Turkey's former political leaders. He was sentenced to three months in jail but the tribunal also added an extra month to the penalty on the grounds that the offence was committed during a period of martial law. Now the military court of appeal has reduced the penalty back to three months. "Mr. Ecevit will most probably be freed on Jan. 20, for expected good behaviour and absence of earlier convictions," the former prime minister's lawyers said today.

Suharto offers amnesty to ex-aides

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Dec. 26 (A.P.) — President Suharto has commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment for former foreign minister Dr. Subandrio and former chief of staff of the air force Air Marshal Omar Dhanio, the department of justice said today. Chief of the department's public relations office Rahardjo said the presidential pardon was issued on Dec. 14. Dr. Subandrio and Marshal Omar were sentenced to death in 1966 by a military tribunal which found them guilty of conspiring to overthrow the legal government through an abortive communist coup attempt in September 1965. Mr. Rahardjo said their sentences are subject to remission of 20 year prison terms if they show good behaviour during the next five years of imprisonment. Both Dr. Subandrio and Marshal Omar are approaching their sixties.

Kabul frees French photographer

PARIS, Dec. 26 (R) — Jean-Paul Silve, a French amateur photographer sentenced to five years imprisonment in Afghanistan for supporting rebel troops, has been released after serving nine months, according to the external relations ministry. Mr. Silve, 21, was released Thursday and reported immediately to the French embassy, a ministry spokeswoman said. She said Mr. Silve entered Afghanistan illegally and was captured after a skirmish between rebel troops with whom he was travelling and a regular Afghan army unit on March 17. He was convicted of serving as a mercenary. Mr. Silve was allowed one conversation with his family after his trial in which he said the prosecution cited the fact he served in a paratroop unit during compulsory military training. His family quoted him as saying he was travelling with the rebels only as an observer and wanted to see his photographs to news agencies after he came out. The spokeswoman said Mr. Silve appeared to be in good health and was due to return to France in the next few days.

Mafia shootout disturbs Sicilian town

BAGHERIA, Sicily, Dec. 26 (R) — The Christmas tranquillity of this small Sicilian town was shattered yesterday when three men, including a bystander, were killed in a Mafia shoot-out after a high speed car chase, police said. The killers, in two cars, chased the car of suspected local Mafia boss Giovanni di Peri, 62, and Biagio Pitarresi, 35, through the town before blocking it and opening fire with pistols and sawn-off shotguns, killing both men. Police said the shooting bore all the hallmarks of a Mafia "settling of accounts." A 60-year-old pensioner, who came to the door of his house after hearing the screech of tyres, was killed by stray shotgun bullets. Police later found both the suspected killers' cars, which had been recently stolen.

Fears of greatest 'jaws' in California

MONTEREY, California, Dec. 26 (R) — The body of a surfer was washed ashore near here yesterday bearing the toothmarks of what could be the biggest great white shark ever to approach the California coast, police said. Lewis Boren, 25, was last seen surf-riding in the Pacific last Saturday. His surfboard, washed ashore the following day, also had toothmarks and an 46-centimetre chunk had been bitten off. Police quoted marine biologist Bob Lee as saying that judging from its bite pattern the shark must be 5.4 to six metres long. The biggest great white shark reported previously off the California was 4.6 metres long. The last death attributed to one of them in California was in 1955.

Two years of war have toughened Afghan rebels

By Barry Shlachter

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Two years of warring against the Soviet military machine has not dampened the flames of resistance in Afghanistan, where Muslim tribesmen as rugged as the terrain are taking on the foreign army in ever greater numbers.

But the insurgents' own disunity continues to work against them as they struggle against the 80,000-man Soviet force and the pro-Moscow Afghan regime it supports.

The Soviet intervention in the Central Asian country, which began Dec. 27, 1979, may no longer hold world attention as it once did. But watched or not, the fighting rages on in almost every one of the 19 provinces in that mountainous land.

Estimates of the dead and wounded in the war range up to 25,000 for the Afghan Army and 10,000 for the Soviets. Little is known about total insurgent casualties. The conflict also has driven perhaps 2 million or more Afghan refugees into Pakistan.

In the past 12 months the Afghan insurgents have become better equipped and more daring in their attacks on urban areas and have reversed a previous no-prisoner policy by taking their first Soviets alive, including a senior civilian technical adviser.

The guerrillas' bolder tactics include nighttime raids by assassination teams that strike regularly against loyalists in Kabul and other cities. State-run radio Afghanistan acknowledged a particularly bloody attack on a capital's housing complex where many regime officials and Soviet advisers reside.

Kandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city, was twice all but overrun in 1981 by insurgents, who still stubbornly hold on to the provincial capital's southern suburbs.

In the countryside, the resistance appears to have consolidated control over a number of district headquarters, according to defecting civil servants.

Insurgents armed with plastic explosive mines and anti-tank rocket-propelled grenades — apparently supplied by Egypt in what some sources say is a U.S.-financed programme — have successfully defended the strategic Panjshir Valley against Soviet and Afghan army advances into the "liberated" area, 104 kilometres north of Kabul.

But every day in Peshawar, a dusty town on the Afghan border and a base for Afghan opposition groups, new tales emerge of bloody clashes among guerrilla groups inside Afghanistan. Coalitions of insurgent parties collapse as quickly as they are announced.

Abdul Rauf, an opposition military adviser who is not a member of any insurgent party, says the nagging disunity not only robs the resistance of chances to exploit successes in the field, but also leads to excesses against villagers on whose goodwill the guerrillas must depend.

The 37-year-old Rauf, who was an Afghan army colonel before he defected in mid-1979, said that when one faction, the Gulbiddin group within the Hezbi Islami (Islamic Party), finds villagers aligned to other resistance parties, it fines them heavily and seizes their weapons.

Rauf, who advises various guerrilla groups, was interviewed on his return from a four-month tour of insurgent fronts in eastern and Central Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the right-wing, Muslim fundamentalist Gulbiddin denied this and other charges, including the frequent claim that Hezbi Islami "imprisons" opponents in northwest Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt bordering Afghanistan.

In another interview, Mohammed Yusef Farand, a former Afghan deputy planning minister who defected from Kabul two months ago, echoed Rauf's complaints.

"I wonder how long the people can bear this suffering," said Farand, 51, who was educated at the University of Pittsburgh in the United States.

"People are sick, wounded. But a man can be taxed two or three times by different parties, each collecting its own taxes," he said, corroborating similar accounts of life in guerrilla-run areas.

الجزيرة